Report: Deaths of U.S. civilian contractors in Iraq increase

STARS STRIPES.

Cadiz Carnaval brings out strange sights



Mannheim MPs recall sorrowful year in Iraq



Pats hit town, engage Eagles in war of words

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Iraqi polling sites

begin ballot count

Allawi asks countrymen to set aside differences for future



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Strip

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ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

War on terrorism

Kuwait killings: An Army sergeant who faces a court-martial for killing two officers in a grenade attack in Ku wait needs further treatment for a sleep disorder, his defense lawyers told a judge in Fort Bragg, N.C., on Monday.

Sgt. Hasan Akbar of the 101st Airborne Division fell asleep during pretrial hearings in military court last year, causing a judge to order treatment for his sleep apnea. But defense lawyer Maj. David Coombs said Akhar is still plagued by problems.

The military judge, Col. Stephen Henley, said he would take a recess at least every 90 minutes but denied Coombs' request for a break after each witness

Missing French reporter: France is still searching discreetly for a reporter and her Iraqi translator missing for nearly a month in Iraq, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said Monday.

Barnier said concerns for their safety prevent him from saying much about the disappearance of Florence Aubenas, of the daily newspaper Liberation, and Hussein Hanoun al-Saadi.

"The priority for me is the security of Florence Aubenas and her assistant. We are working with discretion," the minister said on Europe-1 radio. "The government, our services here (and) in Baghdad, are doing what they should and what they can so they are found."

States

Rhode Island nightclub fire: The lead singer for the 1980s rock band Great White has refused to answer allegations in civil suits filed against him by victims of the deadly nightclub fire that was sparked by the band's pyrotechnics.

In papers filed in U.S. District Court, Jack Russell's lawyers said he "faces a real possi-bility of criminal prosecution" for the 2003 fire that killed 100 people, and that therefore, he is asserting his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.

Mike Healey, spokesman for Attorney General Patrick Lynch, told The Providence Journal for Monday's editions that "there is no open grand jury investigation going on" in connection with the fire at the Station nightclub in West Warwick.

Georgia ice storm: The thick blankets of ice that caused havoc on Georgia roadways and runways began slowly melting, aiding efforts to restore power to thousands of

homes and businesses hit by a winter blast. By Monday morning, about 57,000 homes and businesses in the state still were without power, compared with 102,000 who were without power Sunday afternoon.

All four runways at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport were operational again - a day after the airport had all runways closed for about an hour and never had more than two runways open.

New Jersey governor's race: U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine's quest for the governorship in 2005 apparently has gotten a boost with word that the man currently occupying the position won't challenge the deep-pocketed senator

Acting Gov. Richard J. Codev announced Monday that he will skip a run for a full



Remembering Johnny Carson: Bonnie Bamsey of Norfolk, Neb., right, looks at a program for a memorial honoring famed talk show host Johnny Carson, as Gene Kincanon looks on Sunday at the Carson Theatre in Norfolk, Carson didn't want a public memorial in Los Angeles, but people from the Nebraska town where the comedian was raised gathered at the high school auditorium that bears his name for a last chance to say goodbye.

term as governor, a decision he based partly on concerns that he could not raise the money needed to challenge Corzine in the Democratic primary.

"God knows this has not been an easy decision for me to reach," Codey said. He endorsed Corzine, the only Democrat to formally enter the race.

Business

Italian airline expansion: The budget airline Ryanair said Monday that it would start operating three Italian domestic routes in

The three new routes would connect Rome to Alghero in Sardinia, to Venice and to Verona in northeastern Italy, starting April 28, Ryanair said.

The airline said it would operate up to 10 daily flights for the three routes. It's the first time that the airline has launched domestic routes in Italy, and the move is seen as a challenge to Italian state-run carrier Alita-

World

War crimes tribunals: U.N. war crimes judges in The Hague, Netherlands, sentenced an ailing, 71-year-old Yugoslav general to eight years in prison Monday for failing to punish subordinates who carried out the deadly 1991 shelling of the Croatian town of Dubrovnik

But Gen. Pavle Strugar was acquitted of the more serious allegations of murder and ordering the shelling during the 1991-95 war in Croatia. The Dec. 6, 1991, attack killed two civilians and destroyed much of medieval Dubrovnik's protected Old City, a UNESCO world heritage site since 1979.

Wanted Serb general: One of the top four Serb generals sought by the U.N. war crimes tribunal for alleged atrocities committed in Kosovo will surrender voluntarily, but he needs more time to prepare his defense because of a serious illness, his lawyer

Gen. Nebojsa Pavkovic, a Yugoslav army commander during the 1998-99 war in the province against independence-seeking Kos ovo Albanians and later its chief of staff, 'wants to prepare a good defense" before he gives himself up to the tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, his lawyer Ljubisa Zivadinovic said

Muslim commander on trial: Bosnian Muslim commander Sefer Halilovic went on trial for murder at the U.N. Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, on Monday for the killings of dozens of Croat civilians during the war in Bosnia

Halilovic, 53, is the highest-ranking Mus-lim army official to be tried for alleged crimes during the 1992-1995 conflict. He has been accused of senior responsibility for massacres in the villages of Grabovica and Uzdol, Bosnia, in 1993

Asian bird flu deaths: A 10-year-old girl from southern Vietnam became the 12th person to die of bird flu in a month, health offi-cials said Monday, as authorities took precautions to keep the disease from spreading dur-

ing the upcoming Lunar New Year festivities.
The girl from Long An province died Sunday night after surviving about a week in critical condition on a respirator, said a doctor from Pediatrics Hospital Number One in Ho Chi Minh City.

Deadly bus crash: Investigators sought to determine why a bus chartered for a Canadian hockey team swerved and rammed a parked tractor-trailer so hard that the bus split in half lengthwise, killing four people and injuring 19.

Visibility at the time of the Saturday afternoon wreck in western New York was good, and the highway was dry and clear, state po-lice Mai. Steven White said Sunday.

White said the bus driver, Ryan Comfort of Ontario, told police that he hit something in the road before the crash, but investigators had not yet verified that

Stories and photo from The Associated Press



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44 It was a privilege to have had the ability to know and serve with such gifted soldiers, leaders and great men.

Capt. Jon Drake

82nd Engineer Battalion rear detachment commander



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Jon Drake, 82nd Engineer Battalion rear detachment commander, remembers six Vilseck soldiers who died last week in Iraq just weeks before they were to return to Germany.

Vilseck community honors fallen comrades

BY RICK EMERT Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — The Vilseck military community gathered Monday at the Vilseck Chapel to say farewell to six Task Force 2-2 Infantry soldiers who died in Iraq last week.

With many welcome home banners hung on fences along the post's main road — for some soldiers who have returned and others that are expected to return in February — nearly 400 community members filled the chapel to honor their fallen comrades.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Stevens, Sgt. Javier Marin, Sgt. Michael Carlson, Spc. Jesus Leon-Perez and Spc. Viktar Yolkin died when the Bradley fighting vehicle in which they were riding rolled over into a canal in Khan Bani Saad, Iraq, on Jan. 24. All were members of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment.

Spc. Michael Luna died Jan. 27 in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, from noncombat related injuries. Luna was assigned to 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment.

Capt. Jon Drake, now the rear detachment commander for 82nd Engineer Battalion, spoke about the five 2-2 Infantry soldiers whom he commanded while in Iraq last year.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Stevens

Stevens, 26, from Massachusetts, joined the Army in March 1998. He served as an infantry team leader, a Bradley fighting vehicle gunner and Bradley commander.

"His leadership style and charisma was unmatched," Drake said. "(Stevens) was a wealth of information that even leaders and soldiers outside his company could turn to. (Stevens') No. 1 priority, as it is with all great NCOs, was the welfare of his soldiers."

Sgt. Javier Marin

Marin, 29, from Michigan and Texas, joined the Army in September 1999. He served as a rifleman, machine gunner, Bradley driver and infantry team leader.



Staff Sgt. Jospeh Stevens

Spc. Jesus Leon-Perez



Sgt. Javier Marin



Spc. Viktar Yolkin





Spc. Michael Luna

"Sgt. Javier Marin was a true silent professional," Drake said. "There were times when I had to order him to speak. Javier was always focused on his men and the mission.

"I was told that infantrymen can only be promoted by fellow infantrymen," he said. "I was not one to cause a stir, so I asked Javier who he wanted to promote him. And with his typical grin, he said: 'You sir.' I will always remember that day."

Sgt. Michael "Shrek" Carlson

Carlson, 22, grew up in St. Paul, Minn. He joined the Army in May 2001. He was a radio telephone operator, grenadier and machine gun operator.

"Sgt. Michael Carlson, also known as 'Shrek,' was the kind of guy that always brought humor into any situation," Drake

said. "Shrek would give you the shirt off his back if you were in need, as was the case in Buhriz during an insurgent uprising in June. After more than 24 hours of continuous combat operations, he was ... relieving soldiers for much needed breaks."

Spc. Jesus Leon-Perez

Perez, 20, was born in Mexico but grew up in Texas. He joined the Army in June 2003 and served as a Bradley driver. "Jesus was young and it showed." Drake

"Jesus was young and it showed," Drake said. "But that did not stop him from completing any mission. He demanded perfection from himself and his peers and stood proud when his superiors complimented their efforts ..."

Spc. Viktar Yolkin

Yolkin, 24, was Ukrainian but grew up in

Minsk, Belarus. He later lived in Spring Branch, Texas. He joined the Army in January 2003. He was a combat vehicle driver and rifleman.

"Viktar was very proud of his heritage and quick to correct you if you called him Russian," Drake said. "Viktar was quiet and shy, but once he started talking about his family, he was bursting with pride and joy. He was the kind of soldier everyone wanted, quiet, did not complain, tough and carried out tasks with ease. Viktar, we miss you."

Spc. Michael Luna

Luna, 26 was born in Oxnard, Calif. He joined the Army in February 1999. He was an M1 tank driver and loader.

"The people I have talked to commented on (Luna's) lightheratcheases and selflessness," said Capt. James Marks, 2-2 Infantry. Marks read a letter from some of the soldiers who worked with Luna in Iraq, One of them was addressed to Luna's wife, Stephanie, who was at the service Monday. "The soldiers of this company share this

pain with you." Finally, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Kauff-

man, 2-2 Infantry and 3rd Brigade Combat Team chaplain, spoke about how the community could cope with the loss of the six soldiers.

"There is an old German saving that

intere is an our German saying man says the minute a man is born he begins to die," Kauffman said. "We know that life is temporary, but when it comes to an end in large numbers like this ... at a time like this, the magnitude is too great. No one can be prepared for that, when we were so close to the end."

He said the tears of grief, memories of the soldiers and faith could help the community with the tragedy.

"If you knew these soldiers, continue to tell your stories about them," Kauffman said. "If you didn't know them, listen to the stories."
"People of faith know that neither insur-

gents, nor deep waters nor tragic accidents are the end of the story."

emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mi

Law ends TSP open season, ups contributions

By JON R ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - A new law now allows troops and federal employees to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan at any time as well as change contributions to the government retirement nro-

Signed Dec. 21, the new rules which eliminate the current system of periodic "open season" windows - will go into effect July 1, according an announcement by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, which oversees the TSP program

In the meantime one last open season will be held April 15 to June 30

"This means that participants may file contribution elections with their agencies or uniformed services at any time beginning April 15," according to the announcement. "Through June 30, these elections will be processed under the current rules," meaning all changes will be processed no later than the first full pay period after the onen season

Beginning July 1, contribution elections will be processed under the new rules - that is, the elections will be made effective no later than the first full pay period after they are filed.

Also, the maximum amount servicemembers can put into the TSP is \$14,000. Next year, that goes up to \$15,000

Federal agencies fully match narticinants' contributions on the first 3 percent of basic pay, and 50 cents on the dollar for the 4th and 5th percent. Uniformed personnel can contribute up to 9 percent of basic pay and 100 percent of any incentive or special pays.

That breakdown will not change, as well as a few other

"The law does not affect the waiting period new employees covered by the Federal Employees' Retirement System must serve before they become eligible for agency contributions to their accounts," reads the announcement

"In addition, the law does not affect contribution allocations or [transfers between funds], which can be made at any time" using the TSP Web site or the automated hot line

Life Cycle Funds

Also in the works are new Life Cycle Funds, which will provide servicemembers "a new way of managing their account," said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, director of Armed Forces Tay Council

Officials have found, she said. that troops tend to leave their money in G Fund treasury bonds, where contributions are automatically allocated until changed. While the safest of the five funds offered by TSP, it's also the low-

The new Life Cycle Funds will

still use the same five funds, but servicemembers would authorize account managers to allocate contributions to different funds, de-

nending on trends. 'A new chance to invest a little more wisely without you having to constantly move your funds around yourself," said Fenton. 'It's also great opportunity particularly for young servicemembers who may be a little intimated by having to manage funds them-

Fenton said Life Cycle Funds should kick off this summer around the same time the new rules go into effect.

For more information go to: http://tsp.gov or call (877) 968-3778 or (504) 255-8777.

E-mail Jon Anderson at: andersonj@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Unwanted cars line up near bases in Europe

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain -The sandy lot just outside the base gates in Rota gives new meaning to the term "long-term parking." Junky cars sometimes sit for weeks

with flattened tires, broken windows and leaking gaskets. Even the most desperate car thief prob-

ably would pass on them. Although ILS servicemembers and civilian employees often bring their cars overseas, they don't always take them

when they leave, especially if they're in no condition for the roads. But instead of selling the vehicles or taking them to the junkyard, dozens have

dumped them either on base or out in town. Some have been left in the small lot across the street from the naval station's While not all the abandoned vehicles

have belonged to Americans, some have. In the past year, Americans in Rota

have abandoned 90 vehicles, forcing hase officials to crack down on the auto evesores and track down and charge the owners.

"They're very unsightly," said Lt. Cmdr. Brian Jacobson, Rota's security officer

Plus "it's a safety hazard " he added Many abandoned vehicles are in poor shape with corrosive batteries, loose parts, leaking fuel tanks and broken windows, posing a danger to motorists and

The closure of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation department's junkyard on base has "compounded the problem," Jacobson said.

The high price to dispose an imported vehicle in Spain also is a factor

pedestrians.

It can cost as much as \$600 for a vehicle, depending on its condition.

The Spanish government charges 10 percent of the residual value for customs and 16 percent of the sum of the customs



The 293rd Base Support Battalion's "nonoperating" POV lot at Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim, Germany. The car in the foreground is one of many abandoned vehicles.

duties and residual value, which is similar to the Blue Book value of the vehicle. However, the problem isn't isolated to southern Spain

Bases throughout Europe have had to deal with vehicles ditched by Americans and many have implemented strict rules and programs to reduce the number.

In Naples, Italy, the Navy radio station has run public service announcements warning Americans against abandoning their vehicles

In Stuttgart, Germany, base commands are working together to keep the number down, according to spokeswoman Terri Aleiandro.

In 2004, the 6th Area Support Group reported only 11 abandoned cars.

In Mannheim, Germany, the 293rd Base Support Battalion has taken steps to clean up a problem base officials considered an issue that reflected "negatively on morale and quality of life.'

A program implemented last year includes Mitchell Smith, the assistant in-stallation coordinator, once or twice a week combing the bases in the community and looking for abandoned or unregistered vehicles

If he finds one, he puts a tag on the vehicle and notifies the owner that he or she has 24 hours to remove the vehicle and register it.

If the vehicle is no good, they have the option of donating it to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation department and paying only \$75

In the past year, the number of abandoned vehicles has gone from more than 50 automobiles per year to 23, Smith "It's an ongoing thing," he said. "Who

ever is energizing the program, they have to go out and make sure there's no unregistered or abandoned vehicles in the community ... It's a lot of leg work." Tracking down the owner can be

tricky, especially if he or she has transferred to another base.

Processing one abandoned vehicle can take 40 hours of work and can cost the base between \$100 and \$600 in Rota, Jacobson said.

So far, the aggressive campaign to reduce the number of abandoned cars in Rota seems to be working, Jacobson said. Those that do not remove the car with-

in 30 days face disciplinary action and could be court-martialed for "failure to obey order or regulation." Civilian employees can lose their command sponsor-

F-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Staff reporters Charlie Coon in Stuttgart, Gern ny, and Sandra Jontz in Naples, Italy, contribu

Lakenheath teen to attend Senate program in D.C.

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England - A representative to the U.S. Senate Youth Program for Department of Defense Dependent Schools is a poster child for the school system.

Mark Norsworthy, 17, a senior at Lakenheath High School, has lived his entire life in Europe, moving to England two years ago after nearly 16 years in Germany, where he was born and where he attended school at Ramstein Air The son of Chief Master



overseas education with his most recent achievement and those that have come before. In fact, that's why his family moved to England. "We had a choice of coming here or going to the States," he said. "One of the reasons we came here was I would still be in DODDS."

The Senate Youth Program, sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, invites two students from each state and DODDS to spend one week getting an inside look at the American government.

Joining Norsworthy in the nation's capital will be Brienna Carroll of Pusan American High School in South Korea, the other representative from DODDS. They will be in Washington, D.C., from Feb. 26 to March 5.

For Norsworthy, the honor is simply the latest in a long list of achievements. He was one of 70 American high school students to be selected last year for the Research Science Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

He has been active in Model United Nations since his freshman year and recently has passed the first hurdle in the Presidential Scholars Program. His score on the Scholastic Antitude Test was a perfect 1.600. He's been accepted early to MIT, but has applications pending at Harvard, Stanford and Duke."I'm pretty much interested in everything," he said.

"My parents have always been really in-volved," Norsworthy said when asked to explain his success. "And I've had some really good teachers."

Alternates for the Senate Youth Program from DODDS are Carlos Sanchez from Ansbach High School and Brian Mueller from Heidelberg High School, both in Germany.



tuss Rizzo/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Col. Randall Twitchell, center, welcomes home a member of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 95th Military Police Battalion, at an award ceremony in Mannheim, Germany, on Saturday. Twitchell, the battalion's commander, was responsible for maintaining the major supply routes in Iraq with 1.500 troops. The battalion lost 11 soldiers in about 10 months. Including nine deaths in combat scenarios.

'The lowest times, the hardest times'

Mannheim-based 95th MP Battalion returns home after sorrowful year in Iraq

BY RUSS RIZZO Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — The day the 95th Military Police Battalion was handed control of main supply routes through Baghdad, word came of the group's first casualty.

A National Guard soldier attached to the Mannheim-based battalion died of a heart attack during physical training in Kuwait.

"It kind of set the tone," Maj. Dewayne McOsker said of the battalion's time downrange.

After nearly a year in Iraq, the battalion is returning home. Members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment returned last week, and the remaining two of 10 companies are expected back by mid-April.

It was a year that started and ended with the unexpected and it featured far too many bagpipe renditions of "Amazing Grace."

When Lt. Col. Randall Twitchell entered Iraq with the 95th MPs in March, things were relatively calm in and around Baghdad. So calm that he and others expected their mission to mirror the battalion's last deployment ex-

perience: Bosnia.
Their mission was to keep supplies flowing on major roads through Baghad. To Twitchell, the battalion commander, the big-gest challenge appeared to be logistics. The battalion of 1,500 soldiers from 10 companies, at the peak, was unusually large. And it peak, was unusually large. And it was responsible for a large area of roads: from Convoy Support Center Scania, 100 miles southwest of Baghdad, to Balad, 40 miles north of Baghdad, to Balad, 40 miles north of Baghdad.

"It was supposed to be that the really heavy fighting had been done. Saddam's army had been destroyed," Twitchell said. "We weren't expecting all-out combat."

That changed in April, when the Mehdi Army, the Shiite force following Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, and other insurgents

11 soldiers lost

Eleven soldiers assigned to the 95th Military Police Battalion died during the unit's yearlong deployment to Iraq.

Sgt. William Normandy, 42, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery Regiment, Vermont Army National Guard, died of a heart attack during physical training March 15.

■ Sgt. 1st Class Wentz Shanaberger III, 33, of the 21st Military Police Company out of Fort Bragg, N.C., was ambushed in a convoy

■ Pfc. Jonathan Kephart, 21, of the 230th Military Police Company out of Kaiserslautern, Germany, was attacked on patrol April 8.
■ Pfc. Jesse Buryj, 21, of the 66th Military Police Company out of

Fort Lewis, Wash., was attacked manning a checkpoint May 5.

Sgt. Rodney Murray, 28, of the 351st Military Police Company, out of Tampa, Fla., was involved in a traffic accident May 9.

■ Staff Sgt. Kevin Sheehan, 36, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery Regiment, Vermont Army National Guard, was attacked with a mortar May 25.
■ Sgt. Alan Bean Jr., 22, of Headquarters and Headquarters Bat-

Sgt. Alan Bean Jr., 22, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery Regiment, Vermont Army National Guard, was attacked with a mortar May 25.
Sct. Jamie Grav. 20 of Headquarters and Headquarters Battal.

■ Sgt. Jamie Gray, 29, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery Regiment, Vermont Army National Guard, was attacked with an improvised explosive device

■ Staff Sgt. Arthur S. Mastrapa, 35, of the 351st Military Police Company, out of Tampa, was attacked with a rocket June 16.

Sgt. Joseph Behnke, 45, of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, out of Brooklyn, N.Y., was involved in a traffic accident Dec. 4.

■ Pfc. Joshua Ramsey, 19, of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 95th Military Police Battalion out of Mannheim, Germany, died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound Dec. 12.

mounted heavy attacks along the roads the 95th MPs controlled.

For Twitchell, April 11 opened his eyes to how different the mission would be from ones in the past. It was Easter Sunday, a day one typically thinks about "other things than war and bloodshed," said Twitchell, who had lost his first man in combat days earlier during a roadside ambush.

Around noon, Twitchell saw smoke billowing in the distance from where he stood at the Baghdad airport. A convoy was ambushed along Main Supply Route Tampa. Four fuel tankers were on fire and the Humvess with them were "completely wiped out." Twitchell said.

The 95th MPs arrived first to the scene, calling in two Apache gunships to help fight off insurgents.

When one helicopter went down, killing both pilots, Twitchell and others secured the scene. Hours later, more fire rained down on MPs as they attempted to tow a Humvee from the site of the ambush he said

Twitchell's MPs survived Easter Sunday, but the realization had set in that combat would be a daily reality for them.

"It went from occasional attacks to heavy attacks with ferocity every day," Twitchell said. McOsker, second-in-command to Twitchell, but it another way.

"It all hit the fan," he said.
McOsker played "Amazing
Grace" on his bagpipes at every
memorial service held for 95th
MP soldiers.

"I played a lot of bagpipes," McOsker said. In 90 days, seven 95th MP sol-

diers had died — six in combat—
and about 80 more had been
wounded.
Twitchell had some close calls
The museum
houses a comble

Twitchell had some close calls himself. In the heaviest attack he experienced, six rocket-propelled grenades came streaming at his Humvee, leaving trails of light and smoke over the hood and be hind him, he said. He recalls the pinging of bullets as they hit the doors and the windows.

"It doesn't sink in that a bullet was right by your temple until you stop and see the pockmarks," he said.

To protect large convoys, the 95th Military Police Battalion began sending small groups of Humvees ahead. Their job: draw enemy fire so that rapid-responders could spot insurgents and take them out. In a year, they escorted 10,000 convoys, Twitchell

When they weren't patrolling roads, the 95th MPs set up roadside checkpoints for the Fallujah campaigns in April and November and helped establish Iraq's first highway patrol.

The combat took its toll on the battalion, said Twitchell, who appeared close to tears as he spoke about the loss of soldiers.

"Those were the lowest times, the hardest times," Twitchell said.

In December, the 95th MPs had mourned the loss of 10 soldiers and reported 165 wounded. They were prepared to go home when word came of yet another death: a member of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment died of a gunshot wound to the head, apparently self-inflicted.

The death, which is still under investigation, came as a shock for Twitchell. The soldier, Pfc. Joshua Ramsey, was a gunner who traveled in the Humvee in

who traveled in the Humvee in front of Twitchell everywhere the commander went.

E-mail Russ Rizzo at: rizzor@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Seabees museum set to be relocated

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Seabee museum in California has everything military buffs could want to know about the construction experts' 63-year history, but since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, fewer people have been able to visit it.

"It's 200 yards inside the front gate at Port Hueneme, so that really cuts down on who can visit now," said William C. Hilderbrand, president of the Seabee Historical Foundation. "Before 9/11, we had 25,000 to 30,000 visitors a year."

tors a year." That number has dropped to less than 15,000 last year, and all visitors must now have military escorts, Hilderbrand said. The foundation hopes to fix that soon, relocating the museum just outside the fences as part of a \$12 million campaign to renovate and update the facility.

Already about \$2.5 million has been collected and another \$3 million promised for the project.

The museum, opened in 1947, houses a complete time line of the Seabees as well as a variety of artifacts, including a 48-star American flag flown at Normandy Beach on D-Day, the original script for the John Wayne movie "The Fighting Seabees," and a Humyee used in Iraq.

Hilderbrand said other improvements planned for the museum include more exhibit space and better ventilation systems, to protect the hundreds of artifacts the museum holds

"The new one is going to be designed as a museum," he said. "Right now, we're basically in two warehouses. We've got wooden plaques, flags and uniforms, all of those things need some humidity control."

But reopening access to the general public will be the biggest change for museum workers, who haven't seen large crowds browsing the exhibits since security at all military bases was stepped up.

Hilderbrand said base officials have already set aside a new plot of land for the relocated museum, and will move the security fence to allow public access to the new building.

Officials are working with foun-

officials are working with foundation officials to continue to staff and maintain the facility once the new museum is completed.

If fund raising keeps up at its current pace, Hilderbrand said, the foundation expects ground-breaking to take place as early as December.

About 18,000 sailors currently serve as Seabees, quick-response construction battalions. Hilderbrand said the goal of the museum is to "celebrate their significant contributions in contingency construction, disaster recovery and humanitarian assistance, throughout history and around the world."

For more information, go to: www.seabeehf.org.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

Iraq begins counting ballots from historic vote

Iraqis urged to focus on future; 3 Marines die near Baghdad

BY JASON KEYSER The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's interim leader called on his countrymen to set aside their differences Monday, while polling stations finished the first-phase count of millions of ballots from the weekend election that many Iraqis hope will usher in democracy and hasten the departure of 150,000 American troops.

From the counts by individual stations, local centers will prepare tally sheets and send them to Baghdad, where vote totals will be compiled, election Commission official Adel al-Lami said. Final results could take up to 10 days.

With turnout in the vote still unknown, concern was focused on participation by Iraq's Sunni Arab minority, amid fears that the group that drives the insurgency could grow ever more alienated.

Electoral commission officials said turnout in hard-line Sunni areas was better than some expected, though they cited no numbers. A U.S. diplomat warned that Sunni participation appeared "considerably lower" than that of other groups.

In his first news conference since the elections, Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi called on Iraqis to join together to build a society shattered by decades of war, tyranny, economic sanctions and military occupation.

"The terrorists now know that they cannot win," he said. "We are entering a new era of our history and all Iraqis — whether they voted or not — should stand side by side to build their future."

He promised to work to ensure that "the voice of all Iraqis is present in the coming government."

In new violence, three U.S. Marines were killed in fighting south of Baghdad on Monday, after two Marines were killed on election day. At least 44 people were killed in violence Sunday, when there were nine suicide attacks, most near polling sites in Baghdad.



Election officials count ballots Sunday under the scrutiny of monitors after polling stations closed in Irbil, part of the Kurdish northern region of Irag.

See Page 4 for more Iraq election coverage

The country was already focusing on goals almost as challenging as the election itself: forming a new governing coalition once the vote is known, then writing a constitution and winning trust.

The main Shitte cleri-cal-backed faction in the race was already claiming a strong showing in the election. Officials of the United Iraqi Alliance said they expected to win at least 45 percent of the report of the votes in Najaf and 810 percent of the votes in Najaf and 810 percent in Series.

The claims could not be confirmed, and the Alliance had been expected to run strong in the Shiite heartland. Going into the vote, the list headed by Allawi was also considered a main contender.

A powerful showing for the Alliance, which was endorsed by the Shitte Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, could make Sunnis even more reluctant to accept the results of the election — particularly if Sunni participation turns out to have been low.

Although turnout figures were unavailable, a U.S. diplomat briefing reporters on condition of anomynity said "good anecdotal information" indicated that "Sunni participation was considerably lower than participation by the other groups, especially in areas which have seen a great deal of violence."

The Iraqi Islamic Party, a leading Sumi faction, feels the vote was not inclusive "because an important segment of the Sumi Muslim community didn't take part, said party official Naser Ayer al-Ami. Large, heavily Sumni sections of the country were unable calck of security forced polling back of security forced polling backets to open late or not at all, officials said.

In neighboring Jordan, King Abdullah said in an interview with CNN on Monday that Sunni participation was "a lot lower than any of us hoped."

After an election ban on most

daytime driving, cars again wove their way down Baghdad's streets Monday.

"Now I feel that Saddam is really gone," said Fatima Ibrahim, smilling as she headed home after voting in Irbil, in the Kurdish northern region. She was 14 and a bride of just three months when her husband, father and brother were rounded up in a campaign of ethnic cleansing under Saddam. None have ever been found.

It was still unclear if the successful vote would deal a significant blow to the insurgents or lead to a short-term rise in violence. The militants might need time to regroup after the spate of attacks they launched in the weeks before the vote. Iraa's 275-member National As-

sembly, elected for an 11-month term, will draft a permanent constitution, and if the document is approved, Iraqis will vote for a permanent government in December. If the document is rejected, Iraqis will repeat the whole process again.

Once results are in, it could take weeks of backroom deals before a

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,429 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,087 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said

The AP count includes four military civilians and is 18 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,291 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 978 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military and the State Department:

A Marine was killed Sunday in Iraq's Anbar province. The latest identifications reported by the Defense Depart-

■ No identifications reported.

prime minister and government are picked by the new assembly. If that government can draw in the minority Sunni Arabs who partly shunned the election, the country could stabilize, hastening the day when 150,000 U.S. troops can exit.

Iraq's interior minister, Falah al-Naqib, told Britain's Channel 4 News he expected there would be no need for U.S. troops any longer than 18 months because that's when he anticipates Iraq's security forces will be trained well enough to handle the job.

But Allawi said recently that it was premature to know when Iraqi troops would be ready.

U.S. lawmakers praise Iraqi vote, discuss security

BY LIZ SIDOTI The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans and Democrats alike called the Iraq election a success on Monday, praising Iraqis for having the courage to embrace democracy despite attacks by insurgents.

The next priority, Republicans said, must be fully training an Iraqi security force so that the country can protect its own fledgling government and the 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq ultimately can return home. Some Democrats, meanwhile, called on the administration to outline an exit strategy.

Insurgents continued their assaults as

Iraqis went to the polls Sunday, to elect a 275-member National Assembly, seven months after Iraq's interim government took over from a U.S.-led coalition.

"We should salute the courage of Iraqi voters and of American military men and women and now see this mission through to the end, helping to preserve security while training Iraqis to defend themselves," said Sen. Lamar Alexander,

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., agreed: "That ought to be our number one objective. We've taken an important step toward self-government but now there needs to be a step toward self-defense."

Rep. Duncan Hunter, Republican chair-

man of the House Armed Services Committee representing California, said that while the United States can't withdraw troops now, security responsibilities must be given to Iraq as quickly as possible.

"The more they operate and respond to their own government, the stronger this elected civilian government will be," he

But, he added, "creating a strong Iraqi military in which the leadership maintains the obedience of its forces and obeys the civilian government of Iraq is a very difficult

Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., said the training was going "disappointingly slow," but added that the United States has "no choice but to continue."

As for U.S. troops, Skelton said: "I think there might be some light at the end of the tunnel on bringing a good many of them home," given that Iraqis have made a step toward putting their own government together.

Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., said the United States should seek out assistance from other countries so that Iraqi forces can be trained more quickly. He also urged the Bush administration to provide a timetable with benchmarks that would ultimately lead to U.S. withdrawal.

"Success in democracy in Iraq depends on this. They must know when this occupation by our forces will end." he said.

Photos from the Front

nted by Stars and Stripes Advertising & AIG Europe



ABOVE Master Sgt. Eileen Konopacki, Kandahar airfield. Afghanistan, Operations NCO in charge, reassembles the bolt of a .50-caliber machine gun.

Photos by Monica R. Garreau, U.S. Army

BELOW Army Sgt. Andrew Minnis, 151st Infantry Battalion, 76th Separate Infantry Brigade of the Indiana National Guard, keeps watch from a gun turret atop a Humvee while driving through the streets of Herat in western Afghanistan.

Photo by Kevin Dougherty - U.S. Army

RIGHT Marine Cpl. James Rogers, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, squad leader and platoon commander of the Afghan Security Forces, evaluates one of his ASF soldiers technique during Marine Corps martial arts training at a camp in

Photo provided by U.S. Army

BELOW RIGHT Spc. Carlos Pazmino paints in his unit's crest, crossed cannons and buildog "mascot" in the Battery, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment's company area. Pazmino drew the outline the night before and pointed the rest the neat night. He said it would take about 15 hours of work from beginning to end. Jason Chudy/Stars and Stripes







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Marine with mysterious illness gets new liver

BY BEN FOX
The Associated Press

LOMA LINDA, Calif. — A U.S. Marine who returned from Iraq with a mysterious infection that left him on life support was fighting for his life early Monday after receiving a new liver.

Lance Cpl. Chris LeBleu had slipped into a coma by the time he received the transplant during a 12-hour operation Sunday. An unidentified donor from New Mexico was found late Saturday night.

"He is still in very critical condition, but the doctors were pleased with the procedure," said Sgt. Jennie Haskamp, spokeswoman for the Twentynine Palms, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

LeBleu's family, including his 21-year-old wife, Melany, were allowed a short visit after the surgery. Several of his commanding officers and fellow Marines huddled with his wife as they awaited the outcome.

The cause of the infection was unknown. LeBleu, 22, most likely caught a virus or was exposed to a toxin or chemical in Iraq or after his return, said Dr. Donald J. Hillebrand, a liver specialist.

Known by fellow Marines as "Blue," LeBleu was a rifleman in Iraq for seven months as part of a 2,200-man task force that lost 21 people and had nearly 200



Melany LeBleu soothes her husband, U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Chris LeBleu, in his bed Thursday at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif. LeBleu returned from Iraq in September 2004 and fell ill in December. He was diagnosed with an undetermined form of hepatitis and acute liver failure. He had a liver transplant Sunday. after he had silboed into a coma.

wounded in action. His battalion commander, Lt. Col. Matt Lopez, said he wasn't aware of any other members of the unit with ailments similar to LeBleu's.

Melany LeBleu found comfort Sunday in photos of their wedding last fall, which took place shortly after LeBleu returned from Iraq

In mid-December, LeBleu told his new wife he felt tired, a little under the weather. Still, he was strong enough to drive them home to Louisiana for the holidays from his base in Southern California, going for 36 hours straight.

"We kept telling him to go to a doctor, but he said it was just a sinus infection," Melany LeBleu said. "Of course, we didn't think it was anything major."

Days later, he felt worse during the drive back to California.

They made it back to their home on the base, but he didn't get better.

on Jan. 10, she took him to a base emergency room, which sent him to Loma Linda University Medical Center, about 50 miles east of Los Angeles.

"He couldn't keep anything down, not even water," Melany LeBleu said.

even water," Melany LeBleu said.

The Marine was jaundiced and swelling as recently as Thursday, but could still answer questions, Hillebrand said. Within 24 hours, however, he was no longer coher-

ent and had to be put on life support.

Without a new liver, his other organs would have started to fail, his doctor said.

U.S civilian deaths in Iraq soar

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At least 232 employees of private contractors have been killed in Iraq while working on U.S. military and reconstruction contracts, according to a quarterly report to Congress.

"Iraq's unsettled security environment continues to present grave risks for contractors and employees," said the report released Sunday by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Recon-

It cited Labor Department figures in reporting that U.S contractor deaths rose 93 percent during the fourth quarter of 2004 and said attacks on sites, employees and construction projects averaged 22 per week during the quarterly reporting period ended Jan. 5.

The claims were reported to the Labor Department under the Defense Base Act that requires all U.S. government contractors to acquire workers' compensation insurance for employees working in Iraq.

The IG report said the number of claims for workers missing more than four days of work because of injuries rose 61.8 percent in the fourth quarter, to a total of 728 claims.

Former minor-leaguer has survived nine bombings without a scratch

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER The Associated Press

ASKAN, Iraq — The first time Lance Cpl. Tony Stevens was bombed in Iraq, a car packed with 155 mm shells exploded next to his Humvee just as a device containing five more shells detonated beneath it.

By bomb No. 9, the former baseball minor league shortstop had become a

good luck-bad luck icon and the awe of his 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment patrolling the so-called "triangle of death" south of Baehdad.

of Baghdad.
With a couple of weeks
remaining in his second tour of

duty in Iraq, the 26-year-old might be counting the days a little more closely than most and has become a seasoned, battle-hardened veteran of the laws of physics.

ics.
"When you hear the explosion, that's actually good," Stevens said, pointing out that because sound travels relatively slowly, hearing the blast means you have survived it. "It means you're still in the game."
It is not unusual for Marine pa-

trols on the two-lane roads through towns and gray-andbrown fields to encounter three or four bombs a day. Sometimes, there are more — many more.

Many Marines here have been bombed two or three times, and a couple seven or eight. Stevens, at nine, appears to hold the record that no one wants to break.

His streak started Aug. 8. His unit was going to check on a mortar attack when it rolled next to one bomb and on top of a second. Marines tended the wounded

in what they
later realized
was a field of
undetonated
bombs. "We
were pretty
much walking on top of

Stevens says.

Bomb No. 2
was Aug. 9—
the next

That bomb was a freezer filled with five 155 mm shells and set off by a detonating cord left on the road. It cost a fellow Marine some fingers.

Lance Cpl. Stevens

Bomb No. 3 exploded on a security patrol. It injured a Marine riding in the turret of Stevens' vehicle. That was October. "October to Thanksgiving we

were pretty much hitting one every time we went out," Stevens says.

Bomb No. 4 hit his vehicle. No

wounded. Bomb No. 5 hit his vehicle, and

Bomb No. 5 hit his vehicle, and sheared off a live power line overhead, sending it sparking on top of the neck collar of Stevens' flak jacket. He shows the ripped, burned material. "Two-in-one on that one," he says.

Bombs No. 6 through 9 hit his convoys.

In factory-armored Humwees
— the vehicles of choice for patrols — Marines know they can
survive all but the biggest bomb,
and the unluckiest hits. None has
been killed in any of the bominigs Stevens has survived. "It's
not that we laugh about it, but we
joke a lot, once we know it's all

right," he says. What saves his life. Stevens

doesn't know. He doesn't do anything special. "Just pray. That's all you can do in this place." Home is Jacksonville, Fla. Stevens played for a minor

league baseball team — the New Britain (Conn.) Rock Cats — before joining the military. Despite all the bombings, Stevens says he would sign up

Despite all the bombings, Stevens says he would sign up again. He speaks against a backdrop of explosions as his compa-

ny sets off crater-making blasts, destroying a dirt road to keep it from being used by insurgents for election-day attacks.

"Ow!" the Marine standing next to Stevens shouts. The man grabs a wrist slapped numb by a stinging chunk of dirt from the cratering blast a quarter-mile-plus away.

"I told you not to be around me," Stevens says, going after the hunched-over Marine. "How many days we got left?"



mployment, travel, education and much more.

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STARS STRIPES.

Insurgents claim downing of British C-130

BY OMAR SINAN The Associated Press

Insurgents claimed on Monday to have shot down a British military plane north of Baghdad over the weekend, and Al-Jazeera television aired a videotape from guerrillas showing flaming wreckage of a plane. Britain said all 10 personnel on the flight were missing and presumed dead.

The toll would make it the deadliest single incident suffered by the British military in the Iraq

war since it began in March 2003. The C-130 Hercules crashed about 25 miles north of Baghdad on Sunday, about a half hour after polls closed in Iraq's landmark election

The video was issued by the "Green Brigade," a previously un-known arm of an Iraqi militant group — and its authenticity could not be confirmed.

It showed a finger pressing a button on a white box with wires. and then images of two missiles or rockets flying up into the air.

pact with a plane

Instead, it cut to footage of people in street clothes walking through a plane's wreckage burning on the ground. It was not immediately possible to determine if the wreckage was that of the

crashed C-130 In London, officials at the Foreign Office said they were aware of the reported video, but offered

no further comment. A spokesman for al-Jazeera said the Green Brigade, from which the station received the video, claimed to be part of the 1920 Revolution Brigade of the National Islamic Resistance in Iraq

group that first emerged in Iraq's Sunni Triangle in July of 2003. Earlier, a different group. Ansar al-Islam, claimed in a Web statement that its fighters shot down the flight with a missile It

provided no evidence of the claim. A spokesman for Britain's Minof Defense said earlier he could not confirm Ansar's claim

British plane crash

A British transport plane crashed north of Baghdad Sunday, Ten personnel onboard were



surce: Royal Air Force

Judge OKs challenges by Gitmo detainees

BY GINA HOLLAND The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge ruled Monday that foreign terror suspects held in Cuba can challenge their confinement in U.S. courts and she criticized the Bush administration for holding hundreds of people without legal

Judge Joyce Hens Green, handling claims filed by about 50 de-tainees at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, said the Supreme Court made clear last year that they have constitutionrights that lower courts should enforce. "Although this nation unques-

tionably must take strong action under the leadership of the commander in chief to protect itself against enormous and unprece-dented threats," she wrote, "that necessity cannot negate the existence of the most basic fundamental rights for which the people of this country have fought and died for well over 200 years.

Green also ruled that hearings set up by the government to de-termine if the prisoners are 'enemy combatants" are unconstitutional. Those hearings called Combatant Status Review Tribunals, had been criticized by civil rights groups because detainees are not represented by lawyers and are not told of some of the evidence against them including some information that the judge said may have been obed by torture or coercion

The decision conflicts with a ruling two weeks ago by another federal judge in the same court who considered a similar law-suit brought by a different group of detainees. U.S. District Judge Richard Leon found last year's Supreme Court ruling did not provide Guantanamo detainees the legal basis to try to win their freedom in American courts.



IN THE WORLD

Thais and tourists stand candlelight vigil Monday for tsunami victims at the Patong Reach in Phuket, Thailand Patong Beach was one of many devastated areas struck by the Dec. 26



Official: Indonesians will need food aid for tsunami recovery

BY IRWAN FIRDAUS The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia Nearly 800,000 people will need food aid in Indonesia's Aceh province in the aftermath of the devastating Dec. 26 tsunami, a leading U.N. official said Monday, as the country's death toll from the disaster jumped by 5,000 for the second day in a row.

Signaling the enduring depriva tion five weeks after the catastrophe, the number of destitute being fed by the World Food Program in Aceh - now at 340,000 was expected to soar as isolated villages are reached and the economic effects of the disaster

"We are talking around 790,000 people" who will be in need of food assistance, WFP Aceh chief Claude Jibidar said.

It was the first time the WFP has put a figure on the number of people lacking food. Many in the province cannot sell cash crops due to disruption in trade networks, or because their food stocks have been shared with refugees.

Just over five weeks after the tsunami disaster, the overall death toll stood between 156,000 and 178,000 across 11 nations, with an estimated 26,500 to 142,000 missing, most of whom are presumed dead. The range in estimates reflects differing figures released by separate agencies in worst-hit In donesia and Sri Lanka

Indonesia's National Disaster Relief Coordinating Board said Monday the country's death toll rose by 5.085 — from 103.025 to 108,238 — because additional bodies were found and buried. The agency announced a similar increase on Sunday.

Despite the expected rise in the number of people needing food aid. Jibidar said the WFP was confident it could take over logistical work currently being handled by foreign militaries as they scale down their presence in the comweeks and months.

The biggest challenge will be continuing deliveries to western towns and villages that are inaccessible by land because Sumatra island's main coastal road was ruined by the tsunami.

In other developments ■ In Phuket, Thailand, interna tional tourism officials were gathering Monday to work on ways of bringing back visitors and their needed cash to the region's re sorts. Thousands in the region including many foreign tourists -

were swept away in the tsunami. Thailand is to establish a tsuna mi museum to chronicle the plight of survivors and changes to the environment in areas devastated by the waves.

Acehnese rehels said Mon day they are willing to put their demand for secession on hold if Indonesia accepts a "face-saving" formula that would allow the tsunami-hit province to hold an inde pendence referendum within five to 10 years

The two sides held talks over the weekend, and both sides have said negotiations will resume in February.

Syrian official criticizes Auschwitz ceremonies

AMMAN, Jordan - A Syrian Bonneville, an Alpine town on Cabinet minister has criticized the commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, accusing the West of double standards for failing to condemn Israel's actions

> against the Palestinians. "A moral stand against the killing of people means [we] should not disregard the sufferings of some and focus on others," Buthaina Shaaban, minister of immigrant affairs, wrote in Monday's edition of the newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat, which is published in

London and distributed across the Middle East. Shaaban, who was Syria's official spokeswoman before being promoted to the Cabinet in 2003, accused the West, the United States in particular, of ignoring what she called Israel's "racist policies toward the Palestinians.

She referred to Israel's construction of a security barrier in the West Bank, its annexation of east Jerusalem, and its expulsion of Palestinians from their homes

"The pledge that Auschwitz will never happen again should deter all those who entertain racism and hatred." she wrote

week many marked the Jan. 27, 1945, liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in southern Poland by Soviet troops at the end of World War II. The memorials took the form of religious services, candlelight vigils and forums focusing on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism.

Lawyers seek war crimes charges for U.S. officials

By MELISSA EDDY The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany - A group of American human rights lawyers asked German prosecutors Monday to investigate U.S. Attorney General nominee Alberto Gonzales on allegations of war crimes as part of a requested probe of U.S. officials' actions in Iraq, the group said.

Attorneys from the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights filed a suit with German federal prosecutors last November charging that U.S. officials, including Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and former CIA director George Tenet, are responsible for acts of torture committed at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

The attorneys said they chose Germany because it has legislation that allows for the prosecution of war crimes and human rights violations across national boundaries. Because the United States is not a member of the International Criminal Court, they could not take their case there. Documents submitted Monday fore the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee "implicates him in the war crimes that were committed

in Iraq," a group statement said. The group also submitted an affidavit from a leading U.S. lawyer

addressing

stating his

chance a sim-

investigation

conducted in

United

little

views on there whv

would



Gonzales

the 'It's as strong a case as you can get," attorney Michael Rattner said in a telephone interview from New York.

The German Federal Prosecutors' office in Karlsruhe did not return phone calls for comment

German prosecutors have yet to open an official investigation into the original complaint and it was not clear if they would

5 killed in Kuwait terror raid

BY DIANA ELIAS The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY - Kuwaiti police stormed several suspected terror hideouts Monday, ar resting a reputed terror leader and sparking a gunbattle that five people, including four of his followers, as a gov ernment crackdown on Islamic militants intensified authorities

The fighting, in Mubarak Al Kabir, south of Kuwait City, also wounded three terror suspects and three police officers, officials said

Three other suspects surrendered during the raid, including Amer Khlaif al-Enezi, a wanted militant leader, authorities said. Al-Enezi is a former mosque preacher described as a mentor to many young militants here.

The raid was the fourth over the past three weeks and reflected a new sense of urgency in the battle against militants here

Kuwait, a major ally of the United States, has been battling Islamic fundamentalists deeply forces in their country. Kuwait beefed up security in

December around vital infra-structure, including oil installations, following terror attacks in neighboring Saudi Arabia.

Clashes with militants on Jan. 10 and Jan. 15 killed two suspects and two police officers. On Sunday, security forces fought with militants in a residential district of Kuwait City in a clash that killed three people
— a terrorist suspect, a police officer, and a Bahraini bystander.

Authorities have arrested more than 25 Kuwaiti and Saudi suspects since the Jan. 10 clashes. Seven detainees have been referred to prosecutors on suspicions of planning terrorist at-tacks or failing to report such plans to the police.
Since 2002, fundamentalists

have carried out several attacks killing one U.S. Marine and a civilian. Until this month, militants had only attacked the U.S. military and its contractors here, but the shootouts with Ku-waiti forces deeply affected

Flu forces pope to nix appearances

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II has the flu, leading him to cancel scheduled audiences Monday, the Vatican said. It was the first time the pope skipped an audience due to illness since September 2003.

The frail 84-year-old pontiff came down with the illness Sunday and doctors advised him to cut back on activities, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said. Vatican Radio described it as a mild case. From The Associated Press

Tunnel fire trial starts

BONNEVILLE, France long-awaited trial opened Mon-day into the Mont Blanc tunnel inferno of 1999, with 16 defendants facing manslaughter charges for the blaze that killed 39 peo

the highway that leads to the tunnel carved under Western Europe's highest peak, converted its village hall into a courtroom to hold up to 400 people — vic-tims' relatives, defendants, lawvers, reporters - awaited at the hearings expected to last three France relived the horror of the March 24, 1999, blaze with

television showing file footage of the charred wreckage of cars and trucks incinerated in the confines of the Alpine passage linking France and Italy The defendants face up to nree years in prison as well as

fines if convicted of manslaugh-

From The Associated Press

EU restores diplomatic relations with Cuba

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium - European Union foreign ministers agreed Monday to restore normal diplomatic relations with the Cuban government while pledging to increase contacts with critics of President Fidel Castro.

The decision, announced by Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn. ends a freeze on high-level contacts imposed by the 25-nation bloc after Havana cracked down on dissidents in March

A statement approved by the ministers said the EU was willing to resume "a constructive dialogue with the Cuban authorities aiming at tangible results in the political, economic, human rights and cooperation sphere."

But the EU insisted it would continue to

the "urgent" and "unconditional" release of all dissidents, including the 75 given prison terms of up to 28 years in the 2003 clampdown.

Asselborn said at a news conference the new policy would be reviewed in July.

"We highlighted the need to support a process leading to democratic pluralism, respect for human rights and basic free-

The EU stressed that any normalization of relations would not curtail its contacts with Cuban dissidents

"The EU would develop more intense relations with the peaceful political opposition and broader layers of civil society in Cuba, through enhanced and more regu-lar dialogue," it said.

Cuban authorities said earlier this month they had resumed formal ties with all of the EU's ambassadors in Havana. tion for the EU's ban on high-level governmental visits and participation in cultural events in Cuba and the Europeans' decision to invite dissidents to embassy gather-

In November, the EU reviewed diplomatic sanctions against Cuba and Havana released 14 of 75 imprisoned dissidents.

Human Rights Watch urged the EU, however, not to fully normalize economic relations with Havana until Castro's regime releases more dissidents and introduces legal reforms.

"Cuba's recent release of some of the dissidents is a welcome step, but it does not signal a meaningful change in the government's repressive policies," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas director at the New York-based human rights watchdog.

In Prague, former Czech President Vaclav Havel also urged the EU to keep supstores diplomatic relations with Havana

The former dissident said in an article oublished Monday in the daily newspaper Hospodarske Noviny that the newly ex-panded EU must "defend its freedoms and values, and not abandon them" by aligning itself with dictators.

The thaw could eventually have economic consequences since the 2003 dispute also saw the EU defer a request by Cuba to join the EU's trade and aid pact with African, Caribbean and Pacific nations, which could have granted easier access to European markets. Havana withdrew its request after the EU linked it to human rights improvements

Cuba also refused to accept further assistance from the EU's aid budget, which had allocated \$11.3 million to the island in 2002

The 25-nation EU is Cuba's biggest trading partner, with two-way commerce totaling \$2.09 billion in 2003.





A model shakes a newly unveiled Vodafone K.K. mobile phone during a Monday news conference in Tokyo. The new handsets come equipped with a tiny motion-control-sensor.

AFN Open Line

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Shake, rattle and call

The Associated Press

TOKYO - Tired of pushing all those buttons on your cell phone? Jananese handsets slated to hit stores next month are designed to solve that problem: They respond to shakes, tilts and jiggles.

The mobile phones manufactured by Japanese electronics maker Sharp Corp. for Vodafone K.K., the Japan unit of the British mobile giant, come equipped with a tiny motion-control-sensor, a computer chip that recognizes and responds to movement.

Just jerk your cell phone in the air in a variety of patterns made of up of two simple moves - combining left, right or top, down movements - to program your phone in nine different ways to scroll or jump to e-mail or other features.

The sensor, made by Aichi Steel Corp., not only detects the direction toward which the cell phone is moving but also the speed and force with which it's being jerked around.

Vodafone is not giving a price or sales target for the handset. which will be sold only in Japan for now. It said it's working on other kinds of games for the Japa-nese handset using movement but did not give details.

The sensor can also be used to move the cursor by the tilting the phone toward the direction in which the cursor is intended to go.The phone also doubles as an electronic musical instrument.

Italians choosing to live with parents

ROME - Italians growing weary of being stereotyped as dependent on their mothers got no help from government statistics showing more than 25 percent of Italians in their early 30s still live with their parents.

The state-run National Research Center said that between 1990 and 2000, the rate of people age 30-34 still living at home rose from 14 percent to 27 percent. According to the center, sons linger on more than daughters: 36.5 percent compared to 18.1 percent.

From The Associated Presi

IN THE STATES

Former Baby Bell to buy Ma Bell for \$16 billion

BY JAY JORDEN

DALLAS - SBC Communications Inc. has agreed to buy former parent AT&T Corp. for \$16 billion, creating one of the nation's largest communications companies and ending the independent run of a firm whose roots stretch back to the telephone's invention.

The decision followed late-night meetings by directors of SBC, the nation's second-biggest regional phone company, and the 120-year-old icon AT&T, which gave birth to SBC when its monopoly was broken up in 1984.

SBC spokesman Larry Solomon said documents in the acquisition were signed early Monday after AT&T's board of directors approved the deal. Board members of SBC approved the transaction on Sunday evening.

The acquisition is subject to approvals by shareholders, two federal agencies and at least 26 states, a cumbersome process prompted the companies to project the deal's completion may take 17 months, an unusually long wait.

Antonio-based SBC has about 50 million local-telephone customers, mostly in the Midwest and South. It also is a 60 percent owner of Cingular Wireless, which serves more than 46 million wireless customers.

SBC Communications to buy AT&T

SBC Communications Inc. has agreed to acquire AT&T Corp. in a \$16 billion deal that would create the nation's largest communication company. The deal is subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals.





SOURCES: SBC Communications Inc.: AT&T Corp.

AT&T handled the nation's telephone calls before it was broken apart 21 years ago. The Bedmin-ster, N.J.-based company has 24

2004 Sales: \$40.8 billion

million long-distance customers. In their latest earnings reports for 2004, SBC reported \$40.8 billion in revenue while AT&T re-ported \$30.5 billion. The combined revenue total of \$71.3 billion would slightly surpass the \$71.28 billion reported for 2004 by

Verizon Communications Inc., the nation's biggest phone company. The companies would not say how many jobs they expect will be cut as a result of the merger, but Rick Lindner. SBC's chief fi-

nancial officer, said he envisions \$400 million to \$500 million in cost savings by 2009 by consolidating multiple operations from the two businesses

Shareholders of AT&T, under terms of the agreement, will re-ceive total consideration currently valued at \$19.71 per share, about \$16 billion. From SBC, AT&T shareholders will receive 0.77942 shares of the Texas com pany's common stock for each AT&T common share, in an ex-AT&T common snare, in an ex-change ratio equaling \$18.41 per share based on SBC's closing stock price on Jan. 28. That amounts to about \$15 billion in stock. Solomon said.

Bush may face more trouble after State of the Union speech

BY TAMARA LYTLE The Orlando Sentinel

WASHINGTON - President Bush will have no problem winning applause and accolades Wednesday when he delivers his State of the Union speech to Con-

gress.

It's the next day that Bush needs to worry about - when the state of political reality sets in.

After a first term in which Rush got much of what he wanted from Congress, lawmakers and political scientists expect a different balance of power now. The reasons include the president's lame-duck status, restlessness by conservatives and the enormous skenticism greeting his attempts to overhaul Social Security

"There are people in the House who feel like they were pulling a sled uphill at times, feeling like we had to re-elect the president, said Rep. Tom Feeney, R-Fla., of Bush's first four years. Now, Feeney says, "there is more of a sense in Congress it's our responsibility to reassert the congressional prerogative."

Bush will not appear on the ballot again, and Vice President Dick Cheney has ruled out running in four years. That means the Republicans who control Congress "don't see their destinies as closely tied to his anymore," said Karen Hult, political scientist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

And before long, Bush's agenda will have to compete with those of potential 2008 presidential contenders such as Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee.

During Bush's first term, he galvanized support for the war with Iraq and spearheaded sweeping,

The Associated Press

tive strike before President Bush's

State of the Union address, Senate

Democratic Leader Harry Reid called on the administration Mon-

day to outline an exit strategy for

Iraq while his House counterpart

vowed lasting opposition to Social

Reid, from Nevada, also said it

would be a mistake to set a dead-

line for the withdrawal of Ameri-

can forces. "That's not a wise deci-

sion because it only empowers

he said in a joint appearance with

House Democratic Leader Nancy

Pelosi of California.

In remarks at the National

Press Club, Reid said that Sun-

day's elections in Iraq marked "a first step in helping figure out a

those who don't want us there.

Security benefit cuts.

WASHINGTON - In a pre-emp-

Dems make pre-emptive

rebuttal before address

controversial changes to civil liberties. He also restructured federal agencies aimed at fighting terrorism, pushed through a massive tax cut and won backing for his No Child Left Behind education reforms.

He had so much success with Congress, in fact, that he never once pulled out his veto pen. The last president to serve a whole term and never issue a veto was Martin Van Buren, from 1837-41.

But now Bush is pressing to revamp Social Security and the tax code. He's also seeking billions more in war funding amid a ballooning federal deficit, as well as changes in immigration laws and tort reform. It is an agenda both ambitious and full of potential political land mines.

"The items he's asking for are so much bigger," said Rep. Ric Keller, R-Fla. "It's a lot easier to carry a chair than a couch

Bush has the benefit of a Republican-controlled Congress senators and 232 House members. But heading off filibusters in the Senate takes 60 votes, so Bush will at times need the support of moderate Democrats.

Bush will feel the heat not just from the left but from the right in his own party.

Some conservatives in Congress are unhappy that after winning re-election with strong support from the right for his stances on social issues, he is not pushing harder for a constitutional ban on gay marriages. Others are fed up with year after year of increases in spending on federal programs under Bush. And others are just eager to seize the moment for a conservative agenda because they have a Republican president

Jackson's parents talk as jury selection starts

BY LINDA DEUTSCH

The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. - Michael Jackson arrived for the start of his child-molestation trial Monday, greeted by a crowd of fans shouting encouragement who pressed against fences to see the pop star. Jackson, wearing white and shielded by an umbrella, waved to supporters as he walked into court.

Hours before jury selection was to begin, Jack-son's parents spoke out in his defense, saying the pop star's young accuser was simply after his "I know my son, and this is ridiculous," his moth-

er, Katherine Jackson, said in an interview broad-cast on CBS' "The Early Show." She said people who believe her son is guilty "don't know him."

Jackson's father. Joe Jackson, said his son was beloved around the world but had trouble in the United States because of racism.

He said the accuser's motives were clear: "It's

about money.

Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville sum moned 300 people to court for the first round of jury selection Monday. Another 300 are to follow on Tuesday, with a final 150 scheduled to arrive on Wednesday. From that pool, the judge hopes to find 12 ju-rors and eight alternates, but the process could take a month or more

Jackson, 46, is charged with molesting a cancer patient — then age 13, now 15 — and plying him with

On Monday, Jackson spokeswoman Raymone K. Bain said the pop star's "spirits are great," and shot down rumors that he had been suicidal.

"He has the support of his family, his children, his she said. "You're going to see a Michael Jackson who is going to be here today who is very serious — very businesslike and very serious. Jackson is being prosecuted by Santa Barbara

County District Attorney Tom Sneddon, 61, whom Jackson has derided in song as a "cold man."

More than 1,000 applications for media access have been submitted, some of them from as far away as Japan and Australia.

Sen. Hillary Clinton collapses

BUFFALO, N.Y. - Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton collapsed Monday during a speech on Social Security, moments after complaining about a stomach

ber of Commerce, told WBEN-AM radio that Clinton, 57, told the crowd she was feeling weak and had had a stomach virus.

A doctor at the private club where she collapsed asked about her symptoms and checked the sena-tor's vital signs, said a Clinton aide who spoke on

From The Associated Press

way that the U.S. can get out of Iraq ... We have to figure out a to remove ourselves from there with dignity.

Pelosi spoke dismissively of the reception Bush is likely to receive from GOP lawmakers on Wednesday night in the first State of the Union address of his second term. 'You really don't have to have very many communications skills if you have a couple of hundred people who will jump to their feet when you recite the ABCs," she

"What the president says, the president will be held account-able for," she added.

Together, she and Reid sought to lay down markers on issues likely to dominate the congressional agenda this year — Iraq and the broader war on terror, as well as Social Security.

Education secretary sworn in

WASHINGTON - Margaret Spellings, a loyal adviser to President Bush back to his days in Texas, was sworn in Monday as secretary of education and vowed to "stay the course" on the president's school reform agenda Spellings pointed out that she's the first mother

of school-age children to lead the Education Department. Bush said that gives her a personal stake in the state of the nation's school

As Bush's domestic policy chief in his first term, Spellings helped write the demanding education law known as the No Child Left Behind Act.

Colleen DiPirro, president of the Amherst Cham-

the condition of anonymity.

New motion attempts to delay Conn. execution

By PAT EATON-ROBB The Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - An attorney for the serial killer who has tried to speed his own execution filed papers Monday to again delay the execution, saying new evidence raises questions about

the inmate's mental competence. The motion filed in federal court by Michael Ross' attorney, T. R. Paulding, said new evidence raises questions about Ross' competency to forgo further appeals

and "volunteer" to be executed. execution scheduled for Monday. It would be the first execution in the liber-

al northeastern states in 45 vears

Gerard Smyth, the chief public de fender. said offistate "are duty bound" to honor the request. The "clearly



and absolutely requires that such a request be met," Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said before the filing.

"New and significant evidence has come to light that I simply cannot ignore," Paulding said in his motion

Ross, a 45-year-old Cornell University graduate, has confessed to eight murders in eastern Connecticut and New York in the early 1980s. He has said he wants to die to end the pain for the families of his victims



Paulding said in his motion that a state psychiatrist, Dr. Michael Norko, who previously declared Ross competent now believes that he might have come to a different conclusion if he had access to additional information.

Paulding said he is persuaded of the need to explore a phenomenon known as "death row syndrome." Public defenders have argued that years of harsh conditions on death row have, in effect, coerced Ross to drop his appeals.

In an affidavit filed Monday, Norko cited two letters that Paulding submitted to the court

In a 1998 letter to a journalist about an attempt that year to accept a death sentence, Ross wrote: "I did then [and I do truly nowl care for the welfare of the families of my victims. But the truth is I was driven more by a desire to end my own pain than out of a noble cause. However, I knew that I couldn't say that publicly, so I denied my own desire to leave this world and played on the noble cause of protecting the families of my victims."

Ross had been scheduled to receive a lethal injection Saturday, but Paulding, who was hired to help Ross end his appeals and accept the death penalty, asked for a delay after U.S. District Judge Robert Chatigny accused him of adequately investigating claims that Ross was mentally incompetent to make the decision



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From now until February 14, 2005, Moon River Pearls, an online pearl jewelry store, is offering all U.S. military 30% off AAA-quality solid nacre classic and modern pearl jewelry, plus FREE pearl stud earrings with every necklace order. This Valentine's Day, treat your sweetheart (ladies, treat yourselves!) to gorgeous pearl jewelry!



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Sentencing hearing begins in Georgia crematory case

BY HARRY R. WEBER The Associated Press

LaFAYETTE, Ga. - Former crematory operator Ray Brent Marsh sat in court Monday and listened one by one to the relatives of some of the 334 people

whose bodies he left to decay on his property.

"The only question I have for you is 'Why did you do this?' There has to be a reason," Randall Jensen, of Boaz, Ala., asked Marsh in the courtroom. Jensen's father was supposed to have been cremated by Marsh.

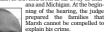
Instead of performing cremations, Marsh, former operator of the Tri-State Crematory, left bodies to decay around the property. He gave cement dust to the relatives instead of the ashes of their loved ones Defense lawver McCracken Poston declined to

say if Marsh would speak. Under the terms of a plea deal, Marsh is expected to be sentenced to up to 12 years in prison followed

by lengthy probation.

Although only 23 people had signed up to speak, any relatives in the courtroom were allowed to take No time limit for their statements was given, so

the hearing may be continued to Tuesday. Some relatives traveled from as far away as Indi-



"There's been a lot of emo-tion in this case," District Attor-ney Herbert Franklin said. "Naturally, there's going to be emotion and that's part of the victim impact statements.

Marsh has pleaded guilty to 787 counts, including theft,

abuse of a corpse, burial service fraud and making false statements.



Marsh, 31, also has pleaded guilty to related charges in Tennessee and received a 12-year sentence to run concurrently with the Georgia sen-

Ruling that frees killers angers victims' kin

The Associated Press

SEATTLE - Yvonne Roberts used to take comfort in knowing that the killer of her 3-year-old son was behind bars. That was before two recent state Supreme Court decisions let him out four decades early.

And that man, David Crane, isn't alone Noreen Erlandson served 12 vears instead of 40 for killing her own 2-year-old daughter.

EXCHANGE RATES

lahrain (Dinar)
ritish pound\$1.8888 anada (Dollar)1.2402
anada (Dollar)1.2402
lenmark (Krone)5.39
gypt (Pound)5.8716
uro\$1.3036/0.7671 long Kong (Dollar)7.7995
long Kong (Dollar)7.7995
lungary (Forint)188.25
celand (Krona)60.76
srael (Shekel)
apan (Yen)103.36
uwait (Dinar)
lorway (Krone)5.97 hilippines (Peso)55.06
hilippines (Peso)55.06
audi Arabia (Riyal)3.58
ingapore (Dollar)1.6330
outh Korea (Won)1,023.90
witzerland (Franc)1.12
hailand (Baht)38.46
urkev (New Lira)1.3375
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or Japan, South Korea, Germany, the
letherlands and the United Kingdom.
or nonlocal currency exchange rates i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-
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ng facility. Commercial rates are inter-
ank rates provided for reference when
uying currency. All figures are foreign
urrencies to one dollar, except for the
critish pound, which is represented in
lollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is
ollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	E .
Discount rate	3.
Federal funds market rate	2.43
3-month bill	2.4
30-year bond	4.1

"I'll never accept it," Roberts said. "These [judges] need to go. They didn't just create a loophole: they opened the cell door to these

The court's rulings concerned Washington's law on felony murder, defined as a homicide that occurs - even by accident - during or "in furtherance of" another felony, such as robbery. For decades, prosecutors charged defendants with second-degree felony murder if an assault led to some one's death

In 2003, the court decided the law did not allow for felony murder charges in assault cases. In a 5-4 ruling, justices reasoned that in such cases, the assault and homicide are the same act: The homicide does not occur "in furtherance of" assault, it is the assault.

Last fall, the high court said it was applying the decision retroactively - invalidating felony murder convictions based on assaults from 1976 to 2003, when the Legislature changed the law to explicitly allow second-degree murder charges in fatal assault cases.

About 280 prisoners may be entitled to have their convictions vacated, as well as an unknown number of people who already served time. Prosecutors face the option of filing new charges of manslaughter, which carries a lesser penalty; finding another felony on which to base a felony murder charge; or trying to prove the killing was intentional — a daunting task years after the fact.

"When a court overturns 30 vears of precedent to set hundreds of murderers free, that's a terrible ruling," prosecutor Seth Fine said.

Defense lawyers argued that in many cases, convicting someone of murder when the intent to kill wasn't proven resulted in unfairly long sentences.

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Right time for repairs The findings are culled from

They're the signature products of home entertainment these days, the good old television set and desktop PC

Yet when it comes to the probability of a repair, these two boxy piles of electronic components are virtual 180-degree opposites, according to the January issue of Consumer Reports magazine.

Your basic 25-inch to 27-inch television has only a 5 percent chance of needing repair by its third anniversary as your property, while 37 percent of desktop computers will need repair. the magazine's 2004 annual questionnaire of products three vears old.

A third of laptop computers eed repair in that period, for No. 2 on the most-like-ly-to-need-a-repair list, followed by lawn tractors and riding mowers (29 percent), side-by-side refrigerators with ice makers (28 percent) and self-propelled mowers (26 per-

cent.)
In the least-needing-a-fix camp were 30- to 36-inch TVs, basic refrigerators digital cameras, camcorders, electric ranges and microwave ovens.

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Boycotting cars not an option

I understand where the writer of "Boy-cott your car, not AAFES" (Jan. 24) is trying to come from. And I wish that life worked that way. But unfortunately for

some, there are not always other options. Here at Naval Air Station Sigonella. some of us have a 30-minute drive from

Mineo housing area to get to NAS II the "working" base, and 45 minutes to get to NAS I the "all-purpose" base. So walking and bike riding are out of the question. We also do not have shuttle buses that come all the way out here. But luckily buses do come out for the school children. Car-pooling isn't always an option, because not everyone works the same area or the same times.

We do not use our vehicle for any travel other than from bases to housing. We have only one vehicle for the family. But it does not matter what vehicles people drive, when you think about how far we have to travel a week. That also includes any time a family member has a medical appointment and we have to drive the 45 minutes

to get to the hospital. I realize there are many unjust issues in the world, yet I also realize there are too many people complaining, most just to hear the sound of their own voice. Americans need to learn to help and learn from one and another, and to get rid of the feeling that their way is the only way. I appreciate hearing others' opinions, yet remember they are only one's own opinion and not the way of the world.

In a perfect world we would not have to rely so much on pollutant-causing vehicles, but in modern times, that is how we

> Patti Webb NAS Sigonella, Italy

Letter misses real point

I'm writing in response to the letter "Boycott your car, not AAFES" about ways to address the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's gas prices in Europe. The letter has some very good suggestions for reducing gas consumption, which re-

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duces the amount of money we overpay to

AAFES. But it ignores the main bone of contention that many of us have with AAFES: the overcharging for gas. The letter writer's attitude seems to be

"If you're getting ripped off, don't com-plain, suck it up, and just use less gas." I'm sorry, but if I'm getting ripped off, I'm going to speak up.

The writer also writes "if the whole United States would stop consuming massive amounts of foreign oil, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries would be forced to lower prices for supply and demand." This completely ignores the find-ings of most global economists who have it is China's massive, that record-breaking consumption of fossil fuels that drove up crude oil prices over the last year. But I guess if the writer doesn't ignore that fact, he can't blame high gas prices on those evil SUV-driving Americans

Tech. Sgt. James E. King Ramstein Air Base, Germany

Soul food misses MLK ideals

Did we miss the mark? Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a celebra-

tion of a man and his work dealing with civil rights issues where one is not judged by the color of their skin but their character. It should be a celebration and remembrance of a movement that a man led so we could see our fellow humans - black, white, yellow or brown - as equals. Christian, Jewish or Muslim, it doesn't matter; rich man, poor man not an issue.

This day should be a look back on how far we have come, and a look forward to how far we have to go, not a day focused on the differences of one ethnic group or another. It isn't a black holiday or a white holiday. It is an American holiday

The menu at our dining facility for Jan.

17, the official date of the holiday, spoke of ethnicity offering a "Soul Food Buffet" in remembrance to the slain civil rights leader. To me that is a step away from the ideals that were believed by MLK and from his goals of a nation without color. In the Army, where we have equal opportunity classes, I find it hard to believe that we can lose the message on a day that has the purpose of equality, not difference.

We still have a long way to go to live the dream. I look forward to the time when we are one nation without color, a nation based on judgments made by character. Isn't that the purpose of the day? There are occasions throughout the year that would be better suited to the unique differences that we have as Americans. This is not the day for it. This day would be better suited highlighting the work of MLK and other civil rights leaders throughout the world who are trying to remove violence, racism and poverty. Yes, the national holiday is but one day,

but the dream should be worked on every day. Don't let the dream of equality stop after the 17th of January passes.

"Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty"

- Martin Luther King Jr. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rick Ivey Camp Speicher, Iraq

Nations make mockery of U.N. human rights panel

Just get rid of the U.N. Human Rights Commission. Otherwise, it would have to be renamed the Human Rights Serial Abusers Commission, and why spend U.N. funding (much of it U.S. tax dollars) to give despots and police states a platform from which to desecrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Sadly, the U.N. committee has become a pathetic joke. The latest example: Cuba, China and Zimbabwe are among the five members chosen by their regions to serve on an "action panel" that will be the gatekeeper for this year's U.N commission session, which begins in March. The panel will evaluate and decide what human rights abuse complaints against which countries will be investigated by the U.N. commission

Certainly these three countries are practiced enough in human rights violations to know one when they see it. China's totalitarian government has written the book on wiping out dissent. Zimbabwe has been criticized by the African Union and sanctioned by the European Union for its human rights record. Cuba, of course, only two years ago slapped 75 activists with prison sentences of up to 28 years for

crimes such as publishing articles abroad, loaning out banned books and defending human rights; it has been condemned by the U.N. human rights commission 11 times in the last 12 years and has never allowed a U.N. monitor onto the island.

How could their regions choose these human rights rogues to set the commission agenda? Six of the 11 Latin American nations that picked Cuba — Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Peru - even voted at the commission last year to condemn Cuba for its human rights abuses. Do they think that making nice to a megalomaniac dictator will stop further abuses? Put the commission out of its misery.

ARF WILL

SURE YOU

WEREN'T JUST WATCHING

THE NEWS?

Doonesbury



THIS TIME THE WHOLE CITY IS UNDER ATTACK, NOT JUST MY PLATOON. I RUN FROM BLOCK TO BLOCK, BUT THE RECORPSES EVERYWHERE, THE CARNAGE IS INESCAPABLE!



PAGITIVE

MY TV'S GRAINY,

AND THIS

MAS HI-DEF.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

STARS AND STRIPES WER SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

OPINION

Iraq election 'gives us all reason to hope'

ere is what did not happen in Iraq on Sunday: the mass murder of voters promised by insurgents.

Here is what did happen: Men and women who have lived under tyranny for as long as they can remember risked their very lives to vote.

Here is the unexpectedly good news: All things considered, it was a magnificent

Iraqis had been warned last week by the cutthroat Abu Musab al-Zarqawi that they would pay with their own blood if they dared to vote. Said the terrorist chieftain, "We have declared a bitter war against the principle of democracy and all those who seek to enact it." The choice could hardly have been clearer; democracy or religious fascism. Defying the killers, most Iraqis had the courage to choose democracy.

What a beautiful thing.

Let's not kid ourselves: We've all got a long way to go in Iraq, and the road ahead is fraught with peril. Sunday's election was not an end in itself, but the means to a future Iraq that is governed democratically and ruled by law. Achieving that won't be

pick up their bombs and go home. Many minority Sunnis stayed away from the polls, either from pique or sheer fright, which will make it difficult for newly elected leaders to forge a working government. And given the region's religious and tribal tensions, and history of absolutist regimes, instituting any governing system with checks and balances, and guaranteed protection for minority rights, won't be easy. Civil war is still a real possibility

Nevertheless, the Shiites, who will dominate the incoming government, have promised to include their recalcitrant Sunni counterparts in the writing of the country's permanent constitution, which is the task confronting the country's new rulers in advance of the National Assembly elections in December. And the popular enthusiasm on the streets from Baghdad to Basra suggests that maybe, just maybe, the Iraqi military will now have a government for which it's willing to fight.

For once in a very long time, the news from Iraq gives us all reason to hope. The struggle for a more perfect liberty never ends, but for now let us savor the moment and congratulate both the Iraqi people and the American soldiers who helped win for them the gift of that extraordinary thing in human history: the vote.



U.S. Army Spc. Luke Saunders — who is with the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion and is from Green Bay, Wis. — dances with Iraqi policemen as they celebrate the arrival of a convoy of ballots from a polling station to a central collection point in Baghdad on Monday. Iraqi and American forces escorted election officials, ballots and tally sheets to central collection points for tabulation of Sunday's landmark election.

With promise of success comes chance for failure

e apparent heavy turnout in [Sun day's Iraqi elections was heartening to anyone who wishes to see that country back on its feet with an end both to violence and to armies of occupation. With no little courage, the Iraqi people showed a determination to take affairs into their own hands. Yet President Bush's declaration that the elections were a success is premature, at best. The turnout was a success; the elections won't be a success until it is clear what flows from them

First, it is worth pointing out that a death toll of at least 40 makes this something other than a typical voting day. The insurgents failed to convulse the country in violence, but to call that, therefore, a success is setting the bar a little low, Second, the extent of the Sunni boycott is difficult to judge at this point; if it was widespread, that poses a thorny

problem:

sembly

can't

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An Iraqi as-

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20 percent of the popu-

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who went to the

The insurgents failed to convulse the country in violence, but to call that. therefore, a success is setting the bar

a little low.

surgency, but an unintended consequence of the election may be to launch a civil war in its stead

Nonetheless, yesterday's election offers potentially significant opportunities to build a happier Iraq. Millions of people, despite threats of violence, turned out to be heard - and in so doing they presented a ringing affirmation of democracy. There lies the hope, and the trap.

The question, for those in charge in Bagh



Post-election celebration notwithstanding, Monday was just another day in Iraq for this U.S. Army sniper as he scanned the horizon through his rifle scope during a raid on insurgent targets in Mosul. As jubilant Iraqis sifted through ballots, the issue of how and when the 150,000 American troops currently in Iraq will depart is not yet resolved.

dad and in Washington, will be to figure tion saw casting a ballot as a way of bringout what those millions of people thought ing the U.S. occupation closer to an end. they were voting for. Some significant por- Some may be expecting a theocratic gov-

ernment; others, the reverse. The Kurds clearly expect to be left alone by the Shiite

If the new Iraqi assembly can deliver on most of those expectations (some of which, of course, contradict others), the people's show of faith will have been reciprocated and Iraq will be well on its way to better times. An engaged and motivated majority can prevail over a disaffected minority — and can do so without the help of thou-

sands of occupying troops.

That's not to say that we expect President Bush to declare today that U.S. forces can withdraw, however optimistically he describes the election. But the balloting does hold out the possibility that Iraqis will, in fact, be able to assume control of their own fate, and, sooner rather than later, the Americans can come home.

None of this, though, will be easy, partic-

ularly as the violence is likely to continue for now. The experience of Eastern Europe owing the collapse of communism suggests that nothing is as corrosive as the cvnicism that sets in once a (sometimes naive) belief in the powers of democracy has been dashed. If the Iraqi people feel they have been let down in the months to come — by politics, by imams, by the Bush administra-tion — they won't look back on this election as a success. And they'll be unlikely to have faith in another one

Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY







Cavorting in Cadiz

Carnaval brings about strange sites and high jinks

BY BEN MURRAY Stars and Strings

o hear the taxi driver tell it, a visit to the Spanish port city of Cadiz would be much like a venture into the twisted villages on H.G. Wells' Island of Dr. Moreau.

The people there are changing, he said, forsaking daylight and waking at dusk, preparing their bodies for a fast-approaching time when "they are becoming the cat, the rabbit and the dog."

Soon, he said, very soon. In fact, an inquiry at the city's main tourist information office revealed that there actually is a date set for the start of the transformation: Thursday. That is the city's annual descent into excess and revelry, a 10-day fiesta in the heart of what is said to be the oldest city in Europe.

For those thinking of attending part of the event, officially running through Feb. 13 but likely to exceed its allotted dates, a day-time tour of the festival area is not a bad idea. As a seaside citadel originally built by the Phoenecians more than 3,000 years ago and eventually overtaken by Moors, Visigen and the properties of the p

To start a walking tour of some of the festival's nerve centers, begin at the Plaza San Juan de Dios, a few blocks from both the ferry terminal and the train station on the Avienda del Puerto. The plaza has a host of restaurants, cafés and hostels, and an easy-to-find information center that will provide you with a free city map.

From the plaza, go around the right side of the massive building at the head of the square, the Ayutamiento, and you'll instantly find yourself at one of the city's most visually arresting landmarks, the golden-domed cathedral of Cadiz. A like to the top of one of its spires is worth the 3.50-euro (about \$4.50) price tag, or visitors can ice skate on the lee risk of the festi-

Leaving the Plaza de la Catedral, head out on the narrow street called the Compania, a canyon of shopping possibilities leading to the charming Plaza Topete, rife with flower stands and restaurants. While the shops along the Compania are mainly retail, keep an eye down the alleys to either side for a



Duotoe by Dru Munnay/Storn and Strings

Shoppers file through one of the narrow streets in Cadiz where Carnaval revelers will soon take over.

smattering of pubs and small bars, or cer-vecerias, you're so inclined.

From here, a good destination is the Plaza de San Antonio, about six blocks away, centered in a web of alleys in full Carnaval regalia, with lights strung across the street and vendors selling

cheap party masks.
At the plaza, where a massive stage has been erected for Carnaval events, you can complete an easy loop from the starting point by walking

down Antonio López to the Plaza de España, a center for more Carnaval activities. One of the festival's trademark highlights is small groups of singers and musicians performing satirical skits. These can take place



on a stage, on street corners or anywhere folks gather.

The Plaza de España puts you back on the Avienda del Puerto, just seven blocks from where you started and where rest and refreshments await.



The official poster advertising the Carnaval is curiously vague.



A streetside wall sculpture on Antonio Lopez street in Carnaval



The striking cathedral of Cadiz is one of the landmarks of the city.

The Carnaval action starts late and goes all night, the taxi driver said, and the comic sketches and other entertainment abound. Of course, he also said that odd thing about the rabbit-people ...

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.estripes.osd.mil

On the QT



Directions

There are several ways to reach Cadiz from Rota. One is driving to El Puerto de Santa Maria via routes 491 and 603 and taking a train or ferry to Cadiz. The stations for both are on the wharf, with regular departures on weekdays, fewer on weekends. Another ontion is to drive on N-IV from El Puerto de Santa Maria to San Fernando and then on to Cadiz. Parking is tight, but there is an underground lot on the Avienda del Puerto just past the Plaza San Juan de Dios.



Times

The Carnaval officially runs from this Thursday to Feb. 13, and a daily schedule of events will be listed in Diario de Cadiz, the local city newspaper (www.diariodecadiz.com). And trust us, things will be open late.



Costs

The Carnaval has no entry fee, though restaurant and room prices will likely be liked during the fest. Transportation, at least, is cheap: the train costs 2.50 euros (about \$3.25) from El Puerto de Santa Maria, the 45-minute ferry ride is 3 euros one way, 5 euros round trip.



Food, beverages and entertainment abound in the Carnaval area (on Antonio López, an establishment called The Metal Bar shares a corner with a quaint Irish pub) and ice cream shops are in large sup-



The Web site www.andalucia .com/cities/cadiz.htm. is informative on the history of the city, and has a link for the Carnaval

Additionally, Rota Morale, Welfare and Recreation is running a trip to the party on Feb. 12 from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. for between 5 and 10 euros, depending on rank.

Call DSN 727-2527, or civilian 956-82-2527 for more infor-

- BEN MURRAY

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 40s. Wednesday lows in the upper 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Wednesday lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s.

snowshowers. Highs in the 20s. Wednesday lows in the mid to upper

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with

France: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 40s. Wednesday lows in the 30s. Northern Germany: Cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the

Southern Germany: Cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the 30s. Wednesday lows in the upper 20s.

Hungary: Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s. Wednesday lows in the lower 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

Southern Italy: Cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the 50s. Wednesday lows in

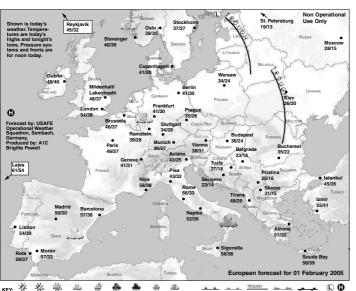
Norway: Partly cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Wednesday lows

Portugal, Spain: Sunny. Highs in the 50s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

the lower 30s to lower 40s

Kosovo: Cloudy with sno Highs in the lower to mid 20s. Wednesday lows in the upper teens.

in the 30s



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Turkey: Mostly cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s. Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s, lower 30s inland. For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil SUN & MOON

New moon 8 Feb 05

Full moon 24 Feb 05



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Knoxville Lake Ch

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS STRIPES Your Hometown Newspaper

PAGE 18 · STARS AND S

Meat plant report

NC RALEIGH — Working conditions at three U.S. meat processing plants — in North Carolina, Nebraska and Arkansas — violate basic human rights, according to a Human Rights Watch report.

Rights Watch report.
The report, released after a year of research, is based on interviews with employees and managers at a Ne-

managers at a rys.

braska Beef factory, a Tyson Foods

chicken plant in Arkansas and the

smithfield Packing Co. pork plant

in Tar Heel, about 100 miles south

of Raleigh. It says workers at all

three plants are frequently in
jured, then refused medical care

or fired.

The report found that repetitive motion injuries are universal in the industry; unsanitary conditions sometimes leave workers covered in animal urine and feces; and attempts to unionize are sometimes violently quashed.

The American Meat Institute called the report "way off the mark."

Hidden danger in tea?

MO my be a source of harmful levels of fluoride that can lead to bone pain, researchers discovered after they looked into the case of a woman who drank one to two gallons of super-strength tea daily. Scientists say it's not the courty's biggest dietary problem.

But it does make the point "all things in moderation," said lead researcher Dr. Michael Whyte of the Washington University School of Medicine.

He said the study tested 10 brands of instant tea at regular-strength levels in fluoride-free water; they didn't test brewed or bottled tea. Fluoride levels ranged from 1.0 to 6.5 parts per million. The maximum level allowed in drinking water by the Environmental Protection Agency is 4.5 ppm.

Record-high immigration

NEW YORK — A new report from the city says New
York's immigrant population is at
a record high, represents a significant percentage of the city's workforce and has offset population losses over recent decades.

The 265-page analysis titled "The Newest New Yorkes 1000. Immigrant New York in the New Millennium," set to be released by the City Planning Departments, shows that the immigrant population is larger than ever before, despite the city being long known as a haven for newcomers to the country, The New York Times reported.

Bat bill passes House VA RICHMOND—A bill recognizing the Virginia

big-eared bat as the official state bat swooped through the House of Delegates with no debate.

The House voted 87-8 to pass Del. Jackie Stump's bill and send it

Del. Jackie Stump's bill and send it to the Senate. Corynorhinus townsendii virin

ianus is the scientific name of the endangered species, which is found only in a few caves in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina.

Stump, D-Buchanan, said recognition of the big-eared bat would help educate the public about Vir-



ginia's caves and the positive environmental role played by the insect-eating flying mammals that inhabit them.

Selling home to avoid jail

NASHUA — A Hollis man has agreed to sell his house to avoid going to jail.

Peter Camplin, 38, was charged with burglary for a noisy break-in into a neighbor's home but pleaded guilty to criminal trespass and agreed to leave his house and sell it within 10 days. Prosecutors said a highly intoxi-

Prosecutors said a highly intoxicated Camplin jumped from his second-floor window, crashed through his neighbor's door across the street and started screaming and banging his chest.

"The homeowner had a gun," Police Chief Richard Darling said. "A couple of shots went off, and

"A couple of shots went off, and the homeowner was able to get him down on the ground until police arrived."

Drug tests for officials

SANTA FE — A lawmaker wants New Mexico to require yearly random drug testing of all its elected officials, from school board members to U.S. senators, with results posted on the Internet.

"I think we need to remember that we are public servants. We're



Mardi Gras time

Norma Klecka wears a mask during the 11th annual Z Krewe procession during Mardi Gras in Galveston. Texas. not royalty," Republican state Sen. Steve Komadina said.

His bill was prompted by last year's drug-related arrests of a prominent New Mexico judge and a public utilities commissioner.

Tim Storey, a senior fellow at the National Conference of State Legislatures, said he knew of no other state that requires such testing.

Visa fraud scheme

FL MIAMI—A former employee at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City was sentenced for conspiring with a Colombian couple in a visa bribery scheme that allowed about 180 cartel members and leftist guerrillas to receive doctored visas.

Julieta Quiroz, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Nicaragua, received one year and one day in prison, along with two years' of supervised release, community service and fines.

Nextel's too-tall tower

ST. JOHNSBURY — A cellular phone company must lower its proposed communications tower in Waterford, the District 7 environmental board has said.

Members of the board told Nextel Communications Inc. to shorten the proposed 140-foot tower if it wants to gain Act 250 approval.

wants to gain Act 250 approval.

"One of the things we found out with the original towers, was that between 70 and 120 feet, there wasn't much of a [signal propagation] loss," said District 7 coordinator Charles Gallagher, referring to applications submitted by ATC Realty a couple of years ago. "At the end of the day, they accepted lower towers."

Vegas stench solved

LAS VEGAS — Pipe-probing robots fired with cameras have discovered the source of
the awful smell that has plagued
to the awful smell that has plagued
Construction debris that got
backed up in the storm drain system trapped stagnant water and
bits of rotting trash, creating what
has been called the "Stench of the
"Tream of Street," city officials said.
"It was critical that we find this

"It was critical that we find this for business and tourism," Mayor Oscar Goodman said. "This smell

After years of trying to cover up the stink with deodorizer, city officials conducted a \$97,000 investigation to track down the source of the smell. Now they have to figure out how best to remove the trapped bits of concrete, gravel and trash.

Can goes with robber

W MARTINSBURG — Maybe he needed something to hold the loot.

A man who broke into a gas station and convenience store took the trash can when he left, said Lt. K.C. Bohrer of the Berkeley County Sheriff's Department.

Surveillance cameras in ROC's gas station show the man entering the rear of the store, then stealing cash, cartons of cigarettes, soda and the trash can, Bohrer said.

Deputies have released a still image from the surveillance video to media in hopes the public can help identify him.



Tasting the snow

Ella Jane, 2, takes a bite of the fresh snow in Blowing Rock, N.C.



Push is on From left, Ryan Turner, Stephen Janssen, Angelo Bruno and Bowman Giuhan, all from Mobile, Ala., make a snowman on the Mall in Washington.



Holiday festivities Peagan Lin performs "The Light with tion of the Chinese New Year at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood in Kirkwood Mo.



Having a ball

Allison Gold, 6, pushes a large ball in an obstacle course in Kirtland, Ohio, as part of the Lake Metroparks Winterfest at Chapin Forest Pine Lodge.



Competitors in the Idiotarod make Fastest cart wins it to the finish line pushing their shopping cart in New York. In a spoof of the famous Alaskan Iditarod race, the Idiotarod pitted dozens of teams of runners who must push and pull a shopping cart from Brooklyn to the Lower East Side in Manhattan.



She's a winner Dreamer, a 10-month-old chihua hua, stands in her pen behind her ribbon at the Golden Gate Kennel Club dog show in San Francisco



Keith Self and his four Siberian Huskies start the 4-dog Siberian class sled dog race at Punderson State Park in Newbury Township, Ohio.

Firefighters suspended

CA SACRAMENTO — Four firefighters have been suspended for participating in a series of sexual encounters with each other while on duty.

The four, who were placed on paid administrative leave, are the subjects of an internal investiga tion for what Fire Chief Julius Cherry described as "on-duty con-sensual sexual misconduct" during their 24-hour work shifts.

The three separate incidents at the fire station involved a male captain, two male firefighters and a fe male firefighter. One of the men would stand lookout while the other three engaged in sex acts, fire officials said.

Teen dies of cancer

BELL — A 17-year-old girl who was honored by Gov. Jeb Bush when she fulfilled her dream by graduating from high school despite a long, painful battle with brain cancer has died, her guidance counselor said.

Caitlin Huggins died at her home. Dana Jones said.

Huggins was diagnosed with cancer in 2001, the summer before her freshman year. There were periods of remission, but three new tumors were discovered the day before this school year began and there was nothing her doctor could do to save her life Doctors in Sentember gave her a month to live.

Landlord jailed for attack

NEW YORK - A Queens NY NEW YORK - 11 Vernillandlord was sentenced to 44 years to life in prison after being convicted of hiring hit men to force two brothers out of a rent-controlled apartment.

Juan Basagoitia, 50, was accused of paying two tenants in the building \$2,500 to beat the brothers and attack them with a knife in March 2003. He allegedly wanted to oust the victims from their three-bedroom, \$400-a-month apartment in the Elmhurst section of Oueens so he could raise the rent to \$1,500.

The brothers, William and David Lavery, suffered disfiguring injuries in the attack but survived They attended Basagoitia's sentencing in State Supreme Court in Oueens.

The two attackers, David Robles and Danny Machuca, were found guilty in separate trials last year.

Wind farm concerns

AR FLAGSTAFF—A proposed wind farm could supply enough electricity to power two-thirds of the homes in Flagstaff, but county planners aren't sold on the aesthetics of the project. The biggest concern is how the 405-foot-tall windmills would obstruct views of the San Francisco Peaks. The wind farm is planned for land leased from the Hopi Tribe and private landown-ers about 35 miles east of Flagstaff.

School name rethought

CANTON- A school board voted to halt plans to name a new high school after a Confederate-era governor, under pressure from students and parents who said they did not want to honor someone who supported slavery.

The Cherokee County board sent the matter of naming the

school back to a committee of faculty and students, which already has said it wants to name the school Creekland High

The board previously had voted to name the high school after former Gov. Joseph E. Brown, a four-term governor from 1857-65 who made his home in Cherokee County.

"The community felt disenfranchised and the board listened," Mike Chapman, the school board chairman, said after the latest

He said the committee will come back to the board with a new recommendation for a school name. The board is expected to vote again Feb. 17.

Students wearing T-shirts say-ing "No to Joe" continued their campaign against naming the school for Brown.

Family coverage request

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Gov. Brad Henry says he doesn't know if the state can afford a request by the Oklahoma Education Association that the state pay at least part of the health insurance coverage for teachers' spouses and dependents. Beginning this year, the state is paying 100 percent of teachers' individual premiums, \$314 a month. A teacher with a spouse and two children pays about \$700 a month for health in-

Climber recounts ordeal

CO DENVER — Jamin Camp tied a thermal top around his bloody head and wriggled for miles with broken limbs to survive in the frigid terrain.

"There was so much blood, I didn't know how long I'd be conscious. I thought I had 20 to 30 min-utes left," said the climber. wheeled from intensive care to a news conference.

The bandaged 27-year-old re-counted the tale of his fall on Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Without a helmet, Camp plum-meted 100 feet. The fall left him with broken wrists, a broken kneecap and punctures to his head.

'I don't remember losing my balance," he said. "I think I was hit by falling ice. I remember swinging. trying to get a hold of things. I

Teen attacks woman, 70

VA COLONIAL BEACH — A 70-year-old woman re-mained hospitalized three days after police say she was stabbed repeatedly in her home by a 15-year-old neighborhood acquaintance.

The woman was in critical but stable condition at Inova Fairfax Hospital after suffering from a collapsed lung and torn intestines, Police Chief Courtlandt Turner said The woman's spleen was also removed, he said.

The woman, who lives alone, let the teen into her house after he offered to check on her frozen water pipes, police said. Once inside, he attacked her with a long-bladed butcher's knife.

The assailant who lives in the woman's neighborhood, apparently made a sexual advance toward woman and was rejected, which may have prompted the attack. Turner said.

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Updated sports listings are available on the first Sociebaard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mi/ INTERNITY 1.265								
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley	Movie ★★% "Flowers for Al-	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Arena Football Teams to Be	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	gernon" (2000, Drama) Matthew Modine, Kelli Williams,		Headline News	Army Newswatch	Announced. (Taped)	Sweet Dreams	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI)	Ron Rifkin.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Best for Less	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow	(10:48) Movie ** TGorillas	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block Smallville "Truth"	TI - 0'D 'III - F - 1		Stripped E News	Pacific Report Smallville "Truth"
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Stanley	in the Miet" (1988) Singurnay	(:17) General Hospital	Smallville - Iruth -	The O'Reilly Factor		The King of Queens	Smallville - Iruth -
12:00	Dora the Explorer	in the Mist" (1988) Sigourney Weaver. Based on the life of	Headline News	War Stories	FOX News	SportsCenter	That '70s Show (Part 2 of 2)	War Stories
12:30	The Wiggles	anthropologist Dian Fossey.	Judge Judy	III. Olorico	- OX NORD	оролоссии	Girlfriends 'Bad Timing'	III Olones
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie * * "Dangerous	Today Durmot Mulroney; To-		Fox and Friends	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	Charmed "Ex Libris"	i
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	Minds" (1995) Michelle Pfeiffer. A teacher works wonders on a	day's Kitchen.	The Simpsons		Announced. (Taped)		The Simpsons
14:00	Blue's Clues "Dramatic Play"	class of educational misfits		Pacific Report	Fox and Friends		Ally McBeal 'Love Is All	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)			The Tonight Show With Jay Leno			Around' (Part 2 of 2)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
15:00 15:30	Funniest Home Videos Full House "I'm Not D.J."	(2:52) Movie ** "Jaws 2" (1978, Horror) Roy Scheider.	I Spy Animaniacs	Late Show With David Letter-	American Morning	SportsCenter	Any Day Now "I'm Not Emo- tional"	Late Show With David Lette
16:00	Pokémon	Another massive shark appears	All Grown Up "River Rats"	man	CNN Live Today	Sportscenter	Third Watch "A Thousand	man
16:00	Yu-Gi-Oh!	off the coast of Amity.	Teen Kids News (EI)	Access Hollywood	CHIN LIVE IOUAY	NBA Fastbreak	Points of Light"	Access Hollywood
17:00	Doug (El)	The Entertainers	Jeopardy!	Headline News	1	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Black, White and	Headline News
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	The Late Late Show	1		Blue*	The Late Late Show
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Behind the Scenes	ESPNews		FOX News	Winter X-Games From Aspen,	The Simpsons	1
18:30	A Rugrats Passover	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller		Colo.	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00	The Proud Family	Movie *** "Platoon" (1986) Tom Berenger, Willem	Smallville "Truth"		DaySide With Linda Vester	NFL Total Access	Star Trek: Enterprise "Strata- nem"	
19:30	The Amanda Show Everwood "Fear Itself"	Dafoe. A soldier embarks on a	War Stories	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	FOX News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	D	Countdown With Keith Olbe
20:00	Everwood 'Fear itself'	yearlong tour of duty in Vietnam.	war 3:0ffes	Entertainment Studios.com	FUA INBWS	NBA Basketball leams to Be Announced.	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga- tion "Play With Fire"	Entertainment Studios.com
20:30	Sister, Sister "Christmas"	(8:49) Movie *** "Boycott"		The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith		Top Hat and Tales: Harold	The Hot List
21:00	Sister, Sister	(2001, Drama) Jeffrey Wright.	The Simpsons	Headline News	1		Ross and the Making of the	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	The story of the 1955 bus boy- cott in Montgomery, Ala.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	1st & 10	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show With Jay	1		NFL Live	Seinfeld	1
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Into the	Movie ★★% "The Three	Leno		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart	
23:30	Fire"	Stooges" (2000) Evan Handler	Late Show-Letterman			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	
				WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY				
00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters Rocket Power	(11:00) "The Three Stooges" (:40) Movie *** "The Thing"	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
1:00	The Fairly OddParents	(1982, Horror) Kurt Russell. A	Access Hollywood College Basketball Illinois at	Bear in the Big Blue House Blue's Clues "Blue's Play"	NBC Nightly News ABC World News Tonight	4 Otrs	Star Trek: Enterprise "Strata-	Bear in the Big Blue House Blue's Clues 'Blue's Play'
1:00	Rugrats	polar research station is invad-	Michigan State. (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News	4 UUS	oem"	Wheel of Fortune
2:00	The Proud Family	ed by an alien life form.		Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim	College Basketball Florida at	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	Dr. Phil
2:30	The Amanda Show	Coming Attractions			Lehrer	Mississippi State. (Live)	tion "Play With Fire"	
3:00	Everwood "Fear Itself"	Movie ++++ "Platoon"	Winter X-Games From Aspen,	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes		Top Hat and Tales: Harold	Oprah Winfrey
3:30		(1986) Tom Berenger, Willem Dafoe. A soldier embarks on a	Colo. (Live)				Ross and the Making of the	
4:00	Sister, Sister "Christmas"	yearlong tour of duty in Vietnam.		NBC Nightly News	Headline News	NBA Nation Matt Winer, Greg Anthony, Tim Legler and Steven	Friends	NBC Nightly News
4:30	Sister, Sister Sesame Street (EI)	(4:49) Movie ** * "Boycott"	Headline News	Judge Judy Access Hollywood	Nightly Business Report Lou Dobbs Tonight	A. Smith provide highlights and	Seinfeld Breathingspace Yoga	Judge Judy Access Hollywood
5:00 5:30	Sesame Street (EI)	(2001, Drama) Jeffrey Wright.	ESPNews	(:25) Guiding Light	Lou Doods Ionight	analysis.	Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	The story of the 1955 bus boy-	Headline News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	College Gamenight	Body Shaping	(:13) General Hospital
6:30	Blue's Clues (EI)	cott in Montgomery, Ala.	Headline News	(. 10) General Hospital	Early King Live	NBA Fastbreak	TiPical Mary Ellen	(. ro) denoral ricopias
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	The Entertainers	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	NFL Total Access	The View	Sylvester & Tweety
7:30	Bob the Builder		Bear in the Big Blue House					Buzz Lightyear of Star
8:00	The Wiggles	Behind the Scenes	Blue's Clues "Blue's Play"	SpongeBob SquarePants	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	SpongeBob SquarePants
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight Movie ** "Killing Mr. Grif-	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil	Batman Beyond	Tavis Smiley Nightline	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	30-Minute Meals	Batman Beyond
9:00	Stanley Stanley studies frogs. Sagwa-Siamese Cat	fin" (1997, Drama) Jay	Dr. Pilli	Jeopardy! Headline News	Nightline Headline News	NBA Basketball leams to Be Announced, (Taped)	30-Minute Meals Food 911	Jeopardy! Headline News
9:30	Arthur (EI)	Thomas, Mario Lopez.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews .	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Sensible Chic	ESPNews .
10:00	Reading Rainbow (EI)	(:44) Movie *** "Ordi-	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	i		Fashion File	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	nary People" (1980 Drama)		That '70s Show	The O'Reilly Factor		E! News Live	That '70s Show
11:30	Stanley	Donald Sutherland, Mary Tyler Moore. Guilt over his older	(:17) General Hospital	Arrested Development	1	NBA Fastbreak	The King of Queens	Arrested Development
12:00	Dora the Explorer	brother's death haunts a	Headline News	The Casino	Fox and Friends First	SportsCenter	That '70s Show	Extreme Makeover: Home
12:30	The Wiggles	teenager.	Judge Judy	T. B	F	0.0	Girlfriends 'Old Dog'	Edition "Cox Family"
13:00	Bob the Builder Dragon Tales (EI)	Movie *** "To Die For" (1995) Nicole Kidman. A	Today Mekhi Phifer; Today's Kitchen.	The District "Blind Eye"	Fox and Friends	College Basketball Illinois at Michigan State. (Taped)	Charmed "Astral Monkey"	Lost
13:30 14:00	Blue's Clues	woman will stop at nothing to		Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	gar onus. (rupos)	Ally McBeal "Tom Dooley"	Pacific Report
14:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	achieve television stardom.		The Tonight Show With Jay	- CA CING I HEHOD		my mobes roll booky	The Tonight Show With Jay
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:57) Movie *** "Battle	Sylvester & Tweety	Leno	American Morning	SportsCenter	Any Day Now 'Music From My	Leno
15:30	Full House	Hymn" (1957, Drama) Rock	Buzz Lightyear of Star	Late Show With David Letter-	1		Life"	Late Show With David Letter
16:00	Pokémon	Hudson. A minister establishes an ombanane in war-torn Korea	SpongeBob SquarePants	man	CNN Live Today	Winter X-Games From Aspen,	Third Watch "Just Another	man
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Batman Beyond	Access Hollywood	1	Colo.	Night at the Opera"	Access Hollywood
17:00	Doug (EI)	Inside the Actors Studio "Will and Grace"	Jeopardy!	Headline News		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Mega"	Headline News
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys The Fairly OddParents		Headline News ESPNews	The Late Late Show	FOX News	NFL Total Access	The Cimprone	The Late Late Show
18:00 18:30	Rugrats	Coming Attractions Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller	I OA HEWS	INI L IUGII ACCESS	The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00	Even Stevens "Starstruck"	Movie *** "Rain Man"	That '70s Show	School Miller	DaySide With Linda Vester	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	American Idol	DC3
19:30	Kenan & Kel "Foul Bull"	(1988, Drama) Dustin Hoffman.	Arrested Development	Countdown With Keith Olber-	1	Announced. (Taped)		Countdown With Keith Olber
20:00	Gilmore Girls "Secrets and	Tom Cruise, Valeria Golino. The Oscar-winning study of an	Extreme Makeover: Home	mann	FOX News		Andromeda "Tunnel at the End	mann
20:30	Loans"	autistic man and his brother.	Edition "Cox Family"	Entertainment Studios.com			of the Light"	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Degrassi: Next	1	Lost	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith		Columbus: Secrets From the Grave	The Hot List
21:30	Degrassi: Next	(:27) Movie ** s "Ground- hog Day" (1993, Comedy) Bill	Headline News	Headline News	1	The Hot List	Grave Friends	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show Home Improvement	Murray. A TV weatherman is	The Tonight Show With Jay	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	1st & 10 NFL Live	Friends Seinfeld "The Pie"	Good Morning America
22:30	Touched by an Angel 'Made	trapped in a Feb. 2 time warp.	Leno	l	Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart	ł
23:00	in the USA"	(:23) Movie "Darkman"	Late Show-Letterman	ł		Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	ł



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FACES

Eastwood wins Directors Guild award

Clint Eastwood was declared filmmaker of the year by

his peers on Saturday, winning the Directors Guild of America honor for the boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby"

The award, held in Beverly Hills, Calif., solidines Eastwood's prospects to win his second best-director prize at the Academy Awards on Feb. 27. He previously won the Academy Award and guild prize for 1992's "Unforgiven," which also was that year's best-picture champ at the Oscars.
"Million Dollar Babv" stars East-



Eastwood

wood as a curmudgeonly boxing trainer and reluctant mentor to a scrappy fighter (Hilary Swank) who becomes a champion in the ring before her life takes a tragic turn.

Hilton's posse attends masked gala

Hotel chain heiress Paris Hilton attended the San Francisco Ballet's masked ball gala with her parents and an Entertainment Tonight film crew.

The "The Simple Life" star was draped in a necklace of cascading golden South Sea pearls and diamonds designed by San Francisco jeweler Rosalina.

The reality TV series, which started its third season

The reality TV series, which started its third season last month, features Hilton and co-star Nicole Richie working in a series of menial jobs.

Other stars attending the event included actors Sean Hayes of NBC's "Will and Grace," Hector Elizondo and television and film director Garry Marshall.

Rock hides out in White House

Comedian Chris Rock says he spent an impromptu

the president.

Rock was filming a movie in Washington a year ago when, during a

ROCK Was liming a movie in wasnington a year ago when, during a break, he walked past the White House.

"A black security guard spotted me and took me into the White House," Rock said. "I was walking around the whole White House. It was weird because (President) Bush was there and they were hiding me from Bush."

Rock
The 39-year-old actor, will host the
Oscars for the first time on Feb. 27,
giving him the biggest audience of his career to date.

Bevoncé singer starts clothing line

Beyoncé is planning a new release — her own fashion collection.

The **Destiny's Child** singer has signed a licensing agreement with the Tarrant Apparel

Group to produce a line of clothing for young women. She named the House of Dereon collection after her grandmother Agnes Dereon, who

worked as a seamstress.

The first fashions will be in stores this fall, and the look will be "a mix of vintage things with contemporary things. It'll be fur with denim, classic

with street," Beyoncé said.

The collection also will include party dresses, sweaters and tailored jackets.

"I have pretty broad taste. I've

been all over the world — thank God I've had the chance to do that," the 23-year-old said.

Osmond's radio show takes the cut

Marie Osmond's five-hour radio show has been canceled after less than a year on the air.
"Marie & Friends," which started in February 2004, fea-

name & Friends, which stated in February 2004, teatured adult contemporary music and conversation geared toward women. It was Osmond's first foray into radio.

It was dropped by Jones Radio Network, but Salt Lake City-based KBEE, the show's flagship station, said it was negotiating to keep Osmond on the air in some capacity. Reruns of the show continue to air on KBEE each weekday from 2-7 p.m.

Osmond's show was ranked first in the Salt Lake market last summer in the afternoon among female listeners ages 25-54, according to estimates from Arbitron, a media research company.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



For being called a "comeback actor," John Travolta — shown with wife Kelly Preston — believes the saying means "he's keeping up his chops as an artist." In his new movie, "A Love Story for Bobby Long," Travolta plays an alcoholic professor.

The comeback actor

Travolta returns — again! — to the silver screen

BY MIKE SZYMANSKI

Zap2it.com

ow many times can you have a comeback? John Travolta smiles when asked if he's irritated when pundits call his latest film, "A Love Song like they did when "Pulp Fiction" and "Primary Colors" came around.

"It's an artistic reference — it's not that you don't exist and you're not doing movies," the actor says. "It's this: 'Did you do the movie that appealed to a group of journalists and critics and an audience that says he's an artist?' That's all it is. It's not if you've been busy, been working, been starving, it's none of that.

There's a hidden note that says, 'He's keeping up his chops as an artist.' That's what I gather from it."

After big-budget action movies last year in which he played a bad guy (in "The Punisher") and a hero (in "Ladder 49"), this meandering tale set in New Orleans seems quite different for Travolta.

He plays an alcoholic former professor who lives with a young protégé (played by Gabriel Macht) in a house that's suddenly owned by a jaded teen (played by Scarlett Johansson) after her mother dies. He understands the criticism, and the spotlight when he

takes on indie projects like this, saying, "I feel the best when I get to spread my wings as an artist, but sometimes you spread your wings and it's not agreed upon either. It's subjective. As long as I'm still here talking to you, I don't care what you call it."

The two times he was nominated for a best actor Oscar were for "Saturday Night Fever," during the height of the disco era in 1977, and for "Pulp Fiction," during his first "big comeback" in 1994.

Since then, he's been honored for works such as "Get Shorty" and "Primary Colors" and vilified for "Domestic Disturbance" and "Battlefield Earth."

"The (American) Cinemateque did a tribute to me nine years ago," says the 50-year-old actor. "I think that once you've hit 40 and you've been around since 12 doing mov-

ies, there's no choice but to do some sort of tribute. It doesn't make me feel older and broken like my character in 'Bobby Long.'"

First-time director Shainee Gabel worried about working with such a star, saying, "John is the 800-pound gorilla, but he didn't act that way on the set. He was always equal with everyone else." Travolta insists, "Often in the tiny movies you get to

Traviota missis, order in the thry movies you get to stretch the most I mean, I've had the good luck of stretching even in big studio movies as in Primary Colors' or 'A CVII Action.' But where you get to take the most chances is often in these independent movies. Life and living it contributed to this character. I couldn't have done it at 23. That's the luxury of getting older, you get to be more right in characters.

Travolta says he's met plenty of people like Bobby Long, and it was his idea to whiten his hair prematurely. Twe been on the receiving end of an alcoholic where they're wicked to you and the undeited verbiage that comes out of their heads and you go, 'Whoa,' but he's also bright, and very poetic,' he says.

Dressed in all black — V-neck shirt, jacket and pants and lotse-cropped hair — he adds, "It's all about how you look, too. Imagine if I looked the way that I look now in 'Pulp Fiction'. It would've been a harder sell." When he first met Macht and Johansson, Travolta took

them out for a shot of whiskey and a round of pool so they could get friendly. "He was great on the set, singing show tunes, telling stories," Macht says.

"I remember first seeing him in 'Grease' and saying, 'I want to do what that guy does.' "

Travolta gave his young co-stars homework, just like the professor he plays. When quotes from Robert Frost or T.S. Elliot were cited in the film, the superstar looked them up and handed out information sheets. "I did research and would say, 'OK, we're doing these quotes tomorrow. Is everyone familiar with them?"
"I think that the story mostly says that broken people

"I think that the story mostly says that proken people can be helpful, that they have something to offer," Travolta says. "But you learn that regardless of how broken they are, there might still be something there for each other."

Horoscope

Jupiter in Libra (since Sept. 24) has been fabulously lucky for part nerships of all kinds, but that luck

takes on a different tone now, as Big Daddy Jupiter stations to prepare for a retrograde transit. Partnerships have more to offer than you thought. A keen awareness will reveal where you should mine for more relationship gold.

relationship gold.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY
(February 1). This year,
you will achieve a long-held
wish. Some of you will
graduate with an advanced
degree for which you

degree for which you worked extremely hard. Others will travel during the spring and summer months to a dream destination. October finds you making great progress towards a spiritual path, while November resolves a legal issue to your liking.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A creative project brings you immense joy and possibly a good deal of money, tool Stand back and admire your own handiwork. Luck is with you if you're looking for love — an encounter with your soul mate is very possible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A situation involving a parent is amicably resolved to your satisfaction. This is particularly true of matters pertaining to elderly care. You're in the right place at the right time. Home provides much-needed peace and solace.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You're invigorated, charged up and ready to tackle whatever comes your way! People in your neighborhood seem especially attracted to your charisma. Even your most sullen sibling looks favorably upon

CANCER (June 22-July 22).
Watch for money in your mailbox. A financial situation that's been in the works for weeks — possibly months — is likely to wrap up, and your efforts could bear golden fruit. It's best to remain humble and keep

that hungry attitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A huge personal breakthrough is on the agenda for you, lucky lion! This marks the culmination of one phase

of your life and the beginning of a whole new and glorious adventure. Whatever you do today has major staying power.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Something that's been buried in

Holiday Mathis

your subconscious may rise to the surface and poke you between the eyes, forcing you out of your comfort zone. It could be the answer to a question you've been puzzling

over. Pay attention.

LIBRA (Sept.
23-Oct. 23). You feel like partying! Whether you're the host or the

you're the host or the guest, you're sure to benefit from socializing with friends and likemind-

ed individuals. A trip across town or across the globe brings you insights into a moral dilemma.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).
A career matter reaches its grand finale, bringing with it potential for profit. From this point on, you may be playing in a whole different ball league, one in which you're calling all the shots! A confident Aquarius is favored for love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a lull in the action. Use this opportunity to search your soul. Re-evaluate your priorities and your values to make sure they're not outdated. Take the time to adjust as necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in prime position to take advantage of other people's money. Someone with deep pockets could very well offer to fund your pet project. Be sure to buy a lottery ticket or two. You can't win unless

you play.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Marriage is in the air. If you're in a committed relationship, your beloved could pop the question or accept your proposal if single, you could meet your future spouse. A business partner makes a significant and

enticing offer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).
Those long hours you've been keeping and the stress you've been under do not a happy body make.
Slow down the pace. Take a hot bath. Rest up. An ounce of prevention now will save you from illness

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Beetle Bailey

Peanuts





















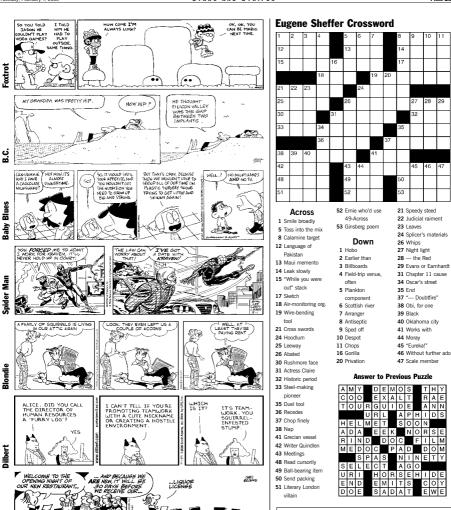
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Tuesday, February 1, 2005 - STARS AND STRIPES - PAGE 23



BROTHERS

HEY! YOU'RE THE CAT WHO ATE MY BROTHER!

2-1 CRYPTOQUIP JREQIH GNX GEQUS U AUI TPEX TUO GPP ARBN BPSPHIX. O OXSSXJ "PJPE

QI GNX BPREG!"

Vesterday's Cryntoguin: OUR F

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY HAS ADOPTED A NEW SLOGAN: "WE PUT PEOPLE IN THEIR PLACES!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals O

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

And it turned

into a slice

The humor of the hospital gown

not, I'm still getting mail regarding the letters I printed about hospital gowns.

Some of them gave me a chuckle, and I thought I'd share them with you. So pour vourselves a

cup of coffee or tea sit back, and as they say, "Bottoms up!"

Dear Abby: Twenty years ago, I was in the hospital going through a miscarriage, wearing a hospital gown. My roommate was a large woman who complained to the nurse that hers barely covered her. I told them we were wearing designer gowns

My roommate responded that it couldn't be true - hers looked like a regular gown to her. I told her ours were made by "Jordass."

Once she stopping laughing, the nurse said she thought I'd emotionally Dear Abby

and physically survive the miscarriage if I could make a joke at a time like that

Two years later, I became pregnant with my son, who's a high school senior this year Even if you can't print this, I thought you would get a laugh from

You Can Laugh or You Can Cry Dear You: I did — and I want

vou to know I admire vour strength in the face of adversity.

Dear Abby: Your column about hospital gowns reminded me of an item that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Green

Sheet years ago. "Did you know that hospital gowns come in three sizes? Short,

shorter, and don't bend over!" - A. Beyersdorf, Milwaukee Dear A · No but that sounds

Dear Abby: After reading the letters about hospital gowns, I wondered if your readers know that the first hospital gown was designed by a man named Sey-

like good advice to me.

mour Heiny.

— R. McA., Johnstown, PA. Dear R.: A true visionary.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069, Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words



YUIRPT

ANNUAL ROAST. Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHAT THE SUR-

GEON TURNED

INTO AT

AGLOW GLADE AMAZON DONKEY Answer: What he ended up with when he ate all the doughnuts --- A "GLAZED" LOOK

Family Circus

"At what point does the new year get old?"

Trouble with long-distance wife

Dear Annie: 1 am 65 years old and in a rather unusual posi-tion. My wife. "Lisa." works at an office three hours away. Lisa rented an apartment near her office and began to commute home on the weekends. That was eight years ago. Things reached the point where Lisa comes home only for holidays

or social engagements. When she does come home, it ushers in a whole new load of issues. Lisa is in a high-ranking position at work and used to having control over everyone. She tells me what to eat and what to fix around the house. The worst is how she treats our housekeeper. Lisa makes a list of all the

dirty spots the housekeeper has to clean the next time she comes. It's become so intolerable that we have shouting matches in front of our grandchildren.

Should I just make our separa tion legal? Is therapy in order here? - Fed Up in the Southeast

Dear Fed Up: We would never eschew therapy, although it would be best if it included Lisa Chances are, your wife is assert ing her authority with such belligerence because she feels guilty

and is trying to make up for her absence, Also, she fears losing her position in the family and wants to make sure you remem-

Instead of shouting try calmly explaining to Lisa why her takecharge attitude is causing a problem. You also might ask her

to lose out

to re-evaluate the impor-Annie's Mailbox tance of her job versus your marriage. Sounds like one of them is going

> Dear Annie: I'm writing in response to 'Not Only a Boys' Team

Anymore," whose daugh-ter, "Lanie," is the only girl on her baseball

When I was 8 years old, I also played on a boys' baseball team, and at first, everyone was weird about me being the only girl. But after I showed them that their remarks didn't bother me and only made me want to be better, they were on my side.

Thanks to all that, I started playing girls' fast-pitch softball in middle school, then varsity fast pitch in high school. I just finished my first year of collegiate softball. To Lanie, I say, don't let their remarks burn you up. Be strong, and show the boys that baseball isn't just a boys' sport anymore. Best of luck.

- Arizona Softball Dear Arizona: Good for you. Your words of encouragement will inspire Lanie and all girls in her position. Here's one more

Dear Annie: I was a Little League coach and I, too, had a girl on my team and a boy who was a bully, with a father to match. Every time the bully would say hurtful things, I would make him apologize and then run laps. His father didn't like this and had words with me. I informed Dad that there is no in "team," and if he did not like my discipline, he could take his son home and not come back.

I also told the father that if he continued to give his two cents to my players. I would remove his son from the team and have him banned from the league. We had no more problems from the father after that, and his son was in tip-top shape from all the laps he ran.

Coach in Corona, Calif.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmallbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Synd cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate







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AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—NBA: San Antonio at Seattle (dld). AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—Winter X Games (did). AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—NBA: Houston at

Wednesday AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Il-linois at Michigan St. AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—College basketball: Florida at Mississippi St. AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.—Winter X Games. AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: Cleveland at Or-lando (dld).

ARN-Sports, 1 p.m.—College basketball: Illi-nois at Michigan St. (dld). ARN-Sports, 4 p.m.—Winter X Games (dld). ARN-Sports, 7 p.m.—NBA: Phoenix at Mem-

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Cincinnati at Louisville. AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—NBA: Phoenix at Min-

nesota (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—College basketball:

Duke at Wake Forest. All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL playoffs

NFL playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 8
SL puis 2, and playoffs
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Indianapoli Sanday, Jan. 8
Indianapoli Sanday, Jan. 8
Plittsburgh 20, VL, 9817, or 17
Plittsburgh 20, VL, 1817, or 17
Plittsburgh 20, VL, 1817, or 17
Plittsburgh 20, VL, 1817, or 17
Saturday, Plab. 6
Saturday, Jan. 18
Plittsburgh 20, VL, 1817, or 17
Saturday, Plab. 6
Saturday, Plab. 6
Saturday, VL, 1817, or 17
Saturday, VL, 1817, or 17
Saturday, VL, 1817, or 17
Saturday, VL, 1817, or 18

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

Sunday

1. Illinois (21-0) did not play, Next: at No. 15
Michigan State, Tuesday

2. Duke (16-1) beat Virginia Tech 100-65.
Next: at No. 5 Wake Forest, Wednesday,

3. North Carolina (17-2) did not play. Next:
vs. North Carolina State, Thursday,

4. Syracuse (20-2) did not play. Next: vs.
Micharaman Saturfay.

4. Syracuse (20-2) did not play, Next: vs. Notre Dame, Saturd's) did not play, Next: S. Wake Forest (17-3) did not play, Next: at S. Wake Forest (17-3) did not play, Next: at S. Wake Forest (17-3) did not play, Next: at 7. Kentucky (16-2) did not play, Next: at 7. Kentucky (16-2) did not play, Next: at S. Wake Markey (16-2) did not play, Next: w. West Virginal, Tuesday, 9. Oklahoma State (15-3) east Colorado (18-4) did not play, Next: vs. West Virginal, Tuesday, 9. Oklahoma State (15-3) east Colorado (18-4) did not play, Next: vs. Southern California, Thursday, 18-4, National (17-3) beat Arizona State (15-2), Autono (17-3) did not play, Next: vs. Southern California, Thursday, National (17-4) did not play, Next: vs. Next: vs. Southern California, Thursday, National (17-4) did not play, Next: vs. Next: vs.

ay. 11 Arizona (17-4) did not play. Next: vs.

 Arizona (17-4) did not play. Next: vs. California, Thursday.
 Louisville (18-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 Cincinnati, Wednesday.
 Oklahoma (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Texas A&M, Wednesday.
 14. Alabama (17-3) beat Georgia 75-47. reuss ABM, Websells, 18-3 did not play, Next; vs. 18-3 ABM, Websells, 18. Alabama (17-3) beat Georgia 75-47. Next: at Forick, Saturday, 15. Michigan State (14-3) did not play, Next: vs. 18-2,

20. Pittsburgh (14-3) did not play. Next vs. Providence, Monday) did not play. Next at No. 12 Louisville. Wednesday. 12 dost, No. 12 Louisville. Wednesday. 179-71. Next vs. Florida State. Wednesday. 23. lovas (12-5) did not play. Next vs. No. 15 Louisville. Soli did not play. Next vs. Florida Tuesday. 25. Utah (17-3) did not play. Next: at Brigham Young. Monday.

Sunday's men's scores

American U. 78, Colgate 59 Boston U. 48, Albany, N.Y. 47, OT Brandels 88, Chicago 75 Canisius 90, Iona 88, 3OT Columbia 57, Harvard 55 Columbia 57, Harvard 55 Cornell 63, Dartmouth 58 East Stroudsburg 54, West Chester 49 George Washington 82, Dayton 73 Holy Cross 58, Lehigh 56 Keaka 67, Polytechnic 56 Lafayette 66, Army 49 Maine 76, Stony Brook 63 Manhattan 99, Fairfield 61 Navy 66, Bucknell 62 Niagara 84, Loyola, Md. 73 Northeastern 69, Binghamtor Vermont 75, Hartford 55 Washington, Mo. 88, NYU 68 ton En

Washington, Mo. 85, Will de Malabam 15, Georgia de Royal de Malabam 15, Georgia de Policia de Carson-Newman 18, Wingate 70 Carson-Newman 18, Wingate 70 Carson-Newman 18, Wingate 70 Carson-Newman 15, Wingate 70 Carson-Newman 15, Carson-Newman 15,

Oklahoma St. 104, Colorado 86 St. Mary's, Cal. 68, San Francis Washington 79, Arizona St. 70

AP Women's Top 25 fared

1. Duke (20-2) beat No. 25 State 52-49. Next: at Miami, Thursday. 2. LSU (19-1) beat Auburn 57-52. Next: at Mississipol, Thursday. 3. Solopol, Thursday. Next: vis. Indiana, Surday. Next: vis. Indiana, Surday.

 Mext: vs. Indiana, Sunday.
 Astanford (19-2) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona. Thursday. zona, Thursday, 5. Tennessee (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 19 Georgia, Monday, 6. Notre Dame (18-3) beat No. 9 Connecti-cut 65-59. Next: vs. No. 14 Boston College, Wednesday.

Wednesday.

7. Baylor (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 16 Kansas State. Wednesday.

18 Kansas State. Wednesday.

19 Kert: All No. 9 Connecticut. Thursday.

9. Connecticut. (13-5) lost to No. 6 Notre Dame 65-59. Next: vs. No. 8 Rutgers, Thursday.

9. Connectiont (13-5) lost 10 No. 6 years
9-59. No. 11-x No. 8 Nutreys. Thurs10. Minimesotia (16-4) lost 10 No. 2 Pen
11. Michigan State (13-5) beat finding
5-40. Note: v. Northwestern, Fluariday.
12-40. Note: v. Northwestern, Fluariday.
13-10. Michigan State (13-5) beat finding
5-40. Note: v. Northwestern, Fluariday.
14-10. Note: v. No. 7 Baylor, Salurday.
15-10. Salurday.
15-10. Salurday.
16-10. Salurday.
1

Sunday's women's scores

Sunday's women's score

£47

Army GL, Lafayette 6-9

£48

Army GL, Lafayette 6-9

£49

Chapter 6-1

Chapter 6

reshiva 58, Bard 44
Surth Mana 72, Mississippi St. 61
Augusta St. 62, Columbus St. 61
Augusta St. 62, Columbus St. 61
Averett S8, Chowan 51
Carson-Newman 68, Wingate 53
Charlotte 74, Southern Miss. 57
Clincinnati 58, Memphis 56
DePauw 76, Centre 48
Duke 52, N.C. State 49

Ferrum 84, N.C. Wesleyan 73 Greensboro 70, Christopher Newport 64 Kentucky 66, South Carolina 50 LSU 57, Auburn 52 Kentleyb, G. Soght Cardinas 50.

John A. Burn S. Georgia Tech 41.

Old Dominion 59. N. C.-Wilmington 59.

Bernollin G. S. Georgia Tech 41.

Old Dominion 59. N. C.-Wilmington 59.

Bernollin G. S. Georgia Tech 41.

Bochester 98. Empr. 39.

Bernollin G. Sall S. Georgia Tech 41.

Bochester 98. Emp. 39.

Towas On S. Georgia Tech 41.

Towas On S. Georgia Tech 41.

Bernollin G. Georgia Tech 41.

Öhiö St. 99, Illinois 55 Purdue 68, Northwestern 65 SW Missouri St. 96, Wichita St. Wisconsin 79, Michigan 71 SOUTHWEST Arkansas St. 69, Ark.-Little Roc Mississippi 75, Arkansas 52 TCU 63, Houston 55 Texas Tech 67, Texas A&M 54

Golf

Bob Hope Chrysler Classic

-18 -18 -18 -18 -18 -17 -17 -17 -17 -16 -16 -16 -16 -16

Craig Barlow, \$9,165 68-68-66-70-79-351 S. Elkington, \$9,165 70-69-67-69-76-351 Ben Curtis, \$9,165 72-70-66-69-74-351 Ben Curtis, \$9,165 72-70-66-69-74-351 J.J. Henry, \$9,165 70-68-70-69-74-351 J. Williamson, \$8,836 72-67-67-71-75-352 John Daly, \$8,836 72-66-88-71-75-352 Geoff Oglivy, \$8,836 75-68-67-67-75-352 Jason Alired, \$8,648 66-65-73-72-78-354

Champions Turtle Bay

At The Palmer Course
Mahuku, Hawaii
Purses \$1.5 million
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Gary MCCOS (MA), 200 - 211-282-210
Gary MCCOS (MA),

Dave Barr, SA, 190

Barry Barry, SA, 190

Barry Bayer, SA, 190

Bayer, SA, 190 71-73-78-222 71-73-78-222 69-74-79-222 72-77-74-223 74-74-75-223 75-75-75-225 75-74-76-225 77-75-74-227 71-81-76-228

71.81.76-228 +12 80-73-75-228 +12 79-73-76-228 +12 77-75-76-228 +12 77-75-76-228 +12 77-75-80-232 +16 79-81-74-234 +18 76-82-77-235 +19 80-75-80-239 +23 79-77-87-243 +27 Rocky Thompson, \$1,365 Rocky Thompson, \$1,140 Babe Hiskey, \$1,050 Walter Zembriski, \$990 DeWitt Weaver, \$900 Larry Stubblefield, \$900 Arnold Palmer, \$810 Brad Schmlerer, \$750

Winter X Games

All events are final Sunday Aspen, Colo. Men

Aspen, Cole.

1. Chairler (200 still person 1920; 5. 7 Inner Hall, Rallispoll Mont, 93,05. 7 Inner Hall, Rallispoll Mont, 93,05. 3, Mon Osson (200 still person 1920; 5. 1 Sept. 1920; 5. 1 Sept.

1 Brian Deegan, Temecula, Calif., 93.00. 2 Jeff Kargola, San Clemente, Calif., 92.00. 3 Drake McErroy, Sparks, Nev., 89.00. 5, Beau Bamburo, Gresham, Ore., 85.60. 6, Ronnie Renner, Westminster, Calif., 84.20.

Skier X

1, Sanna Tidstrand, Sweden, 55.097. 2,
Karin Huttary, Austria, 55.385. 3, Magdalena
Jonsson, Sweden, 55.662. 4, Anik Demers,
Canada, 55.894. 5, Jenni Kilpinen, Finland,
55.982. 6, Valentine Scuotto, France, 56.142.

College hockey

Roston Coll

Hockey East

W L T Pts GF GA 11 1 4 26 52 25 11 4 1 23 53 37 10 2 2 22 51 30 6 6 2 14 88 44 5 8 3 13 42 41 4 10 2 10 36 65 2 10 3 7 32 49 1 15 1 3 31 70 20 50 50 50 50 50 Boston Coll. Boston U. New Hampshire Malne Mass.-Lowell Northeastern Massachusetts Providence Merrimack

Merrimack 1 15 1 3 31 70
Overall records: Boston College 17-3-4,
New Hampshire 17-6-3, Mass.-Lowell 15-6-3,
Maine 14-8-6, Boston U. 15-10-1, Northeastern 9-13-4, Massachusetts 10-15-2, Providence 7-15-3, Merrimack 8-19-2. WCHA

W L T 15 4 1 14 4 0 13 4 1 12 8 0 10 9 1 Colorado Coll. Wisconsin Denver Minnesota N. Dakota

Sunday's scores

Rochester Tech 4, Wentworth Tech 2 Minn,-Crookston 4, Finlandia 3 St. John's, Minn, 6, St. Olaf 1

College baseball

Sunday's scores

Faulkner 10, Loyola, NO 8 Florida St. 11, Charleston Southe FAR WEST Cal Poly-SLO 8, UCL 3 Long Beach St. 11, Arizona St. 5 Stafford 7-8, Fresno St. 0-4 UC Riverside 5, Santa Clara 2

Tennis

+6 +6 +7 +7 +9 +9 +10 +11 +12

World rankings

World rankings

Undray mores singles
2. Serent Williams, United States, 436
2. Serent Williams, United States, 437
2. Anastasia Mysikina, Russia, 478
2. Anastasia Mysikina, Russia, 478
2. Anastasia Mysikina, Russia, 478
2. Serent Williams, United States, 247
2. Serent Williams, United States, 247
2. Nickla Molik, Astrania, 238
2. Venus Williams, United States, 247
2. Nickla Molik, Astrania, 238
2. Hong States and Control Sta

Deals Weekend transactions

BASEBALL
American League
NEW YORK VARKES—Announced an extension of their working agreement with Trenton of the Eastern League through the 2008 season.

Trenton of the Education English State of State ATLATA HAWAS—Placed Ckemp Anderson on the injured list. Activated G Royal months of the control of the control

TANK McNamara

THE SOUTH AFTER THE SOUTH AFTER AND THE SOUTH AND THE SOUTH AFTER AND THE SOUTH AND THE SOUT ESU'S TRYING TO MAKE SURE OTHER COACHES LIKE ME CAN'T GET TO JAMAL TO CHANGE HIG MIND ABOUT WHERE HE'LL PLAY COLLEGE BALL. BUT MY THOSE BABIES ARE LEARJETS WITH 500 MPH CRUISING SPEED ALIK ALIES WE CAN DO THIS KID AND BE IN PORTLAND BY LUNCH OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR IS PREPARED TO THE PART OF LUNCA a VOTE FOR 2004 SPORTS JERK OF THE YEAR AT TANKMCNAMARA.COM

Leonard overtakes faltering Ogilvie

First victory in almost two years bodes well for upcoming season

BY KEN PETERS
The Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Justin Leonard felt he was in a rut, stuck on No. 8. After almost two years, he finally won No. 9.

"I enjoy taking pressure off myself, because I'm usually a little more relaxed and have a little more fun," Leonard said Sunday after ending his long victory slump with a victory in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic.

"I've been sitting on eight wins for almost two years, and it's nice to get a ninth"

He came from three shots back to pass faltering front-runner Joe Ogilvie on the third hole on the way to a 5-under 67 and three-shot victory over Ogilvie

and Tim Clark.

Leonard, the 1997 British Open winner, certainly would like to follow in the footsteps of the previous two Hope champions.

Last year's winner, Phil Mickelson, used the Hope as an early springboard to win the Masters, his first major title. Mike Weir, the 2003 Hope winner, went on to don the green jacket at Augusta that year.

"I would say it's just coincidence, but look at the two guys who won this tournament the previous two years," Leonard said.

"Two pretty good players that probably set up pretty well for Augusta.

"I love playing Augusta. I'm looking very much forward to it." He grinned and added, "I certainly hope to keep that streak alive. I may write that in my yardage book to give me a little boost of confidence"

Leonard finished the 90-hole Hope at 28-under 332 to end a winless string that stretched to the 2003 Honda Classic.

Ogilvie, in his sixth year on the tour and still looking for his first title, had a closing 73. Clark, who won the South African Open in his native country a week earlier, shot a 69.

Coming off his worst year since

joining the tour full-time in 1995, Leonard rolled in six birdie putts and had just one bogey in the final round at PGA West's Palmer Course.

Ogilvie opened the day with a

Ogilvie opened the day with a two-shot lead over Peter Lonard of Australia, with Leonard another shot back in third.

Ogilvie was in a five-way tie for the lead after the first round, then was alone at the top the next three days.

Leonard moved in front quickly

during the final round, with birdies on the first two holes and a part on the third while Ogilvie bogeyed two of the first three holes. Leonard built the lead to four shots over Ogilvie and Clark with a birdie on No. 10, had another birdie at No. 11 and then parred out.

"The rain dance didn't work," Ogilvie said jokingly. "I was try-



Justin Leonard, right, celebrates with his caddie, Brent Everson, after winning the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic on Sunday, his ninth career win.

ing for a rainout today, but that didn't happen.

"I certainly didn't play the way I would have liked today, but I got a pretty good front-row seat for a great round of golf [by Leonard]."

Clark's performance was impressive considering he had an arduous trip to California, and had never so much as seen any of the four courses used for the Hope.

After winning in South Africa the previous Sunday, he hopped on a plane and spent some 50 hours traveling — and waiting between connections — on his way to the five-day Hope. "Coming here so far, such a travel, I didn't expect much of a week," said Clark, who earned \$413,600 [to Leonard's \$846,000] for his trouble.

The week was a blur to him.
"I can't even remember my
[final] round, to be honest," Clark
said. "I couldn't even tell you
what I did on 3. I don't even remember what 3 looks like."

member what 3 looks like."
Leonard dropped to 42nd on the earnings list last year with \$1.5 million, and failed to win a title for only the second time since 1996. He didn't qualify for the Tour Championship for the first time since turning pro.

Gatti set to challenge undefeated Mayweather

BY JOHN CURRAN The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Arturo Gatti was feeling doubly blessed after vanquishing "Jesse" James Leija.

"I won the fight and didn't have to go to the hospital. That's a big plus for me," said Gatti, who put another notch in his WBC 140-pound belt with a convincing fifth-round knockout over Leija on Saturday. Next un is unbeaten challenger

Next up is unbeaten challenger Floyd Mayweather Jr., who will almost certainly put up a better fight.

Quick and crafty, Mayweather will square off with the brawling Gatti in a June 11 pay-per-view show in Boardwalk Hall, the site of Gatti's triumph over Leija.

Gatti, who made \$2 million for the second defense of his WBC title to Leija's \$700,000 on Saturday, was unfazed when Mayweather didn't show for a post-fight news conference announcing their fight.

"He's not the one that's going to sell tickets anyway," said Gatti, 32, of Jersey City. "That's the truth."

Indeed, it's Gatti — box-office gold in Atlantic City in recent years — who consistently puts people in the seats at Boardwalk Hall.

His past five fights there have all drawn 11,000 or more, including a sellout crowd of 12,599 on Saturday night. Mawweather (33-0), a former

WBC super featherweight and lightweight champion, has moved up to the 140-pound weight class and is looking for his first title in it.

In his last outing, he stopped Henry Bruseles in the eighth round on Jan. 23 in Miami

Leija, who at 38 is nine years older than Mayweather and six older than Gatti, couldn't handle Gatti despite a fight plan centered on drawing Gatti into the kind of toe-to-toe fight he often

Gatti kept his distance in the early rounds, wary of any surprises by Leija, who said before the fight he hoped to use Gatti's aggressiveness against him.

"He's crafty and I expected the way to beat him was to use the jab," Gatti said. "I stayed on the outside because of his experience. I wanted to stay on the outside. Once I started landing the right hand, that made the differ-

ence."

In the fifth, he knocked Leija down with a hard right to the head that was the beginning of the end. Dazed, Leija (47-2) took a 9-count, barely getting to his feet before referee Earl Brown could count him out.

Gatti finished him with a left hand to the ear. Leija got to his knees but Brown counted him out at 1:48 of the fifth, depriving the crowd of one of the gory, down-to-the-wire brawls they usually get from Gatti.

Irwin wins record fifth straight Turtle Bay

BY JAYMES SONG The Associated Press

KAHUKU, Hawaii — The Turtle Bay Championship has become the Hale Irwin Invitational.

Irwin became the first player to win a men's

professional tour event five straight times Sunday, easily holding off Dana Quigley by five strokes. "It's always good to be a part of history and

I think this is a very proud moment," said the 59-year-old Irwin, who closed with a 5-under 67 for a record 16-under 200 total. With his fourth straight win at Turtle Bay

with his fourth straight win at Turtle Bay and sixth overall title in the event, Irwin pushed his Champions Tour-record victory total to 41.

The three-time U.S. Open champion had shared the mark of four straight victories in an event with Tiger Woods (Bay Hill Invitational, 2000-03), Gene Sarazen (Miami Open, 1926, 1928-30), Walter Hagen (PGA Championship, 1924-27) and Tom Morris Jr. (British Open, 1868-70, 1872).

With the trade wind kicking in, Irwin masterfully controlled the Turtle Bay Resort's balmy, oceanside Palmer Course, breaking his own tournament mark of 11-under 205 set in 2001. He earned \$225,000.

He dressed in a red shirt, blue slacks and a white cap in support of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Irwin said his final round game plan was to



Hale Irwin holds the trophy after winning the Turtle Bay Championship the fifth straight time.

get off to a fast start and hit all the fairways and greens.

Mission accomplished. He hit all his greens

in regulation and overshot just one fairway on No. 17

"Hale was just on another planet," Quigley said. "He was in a different world. No one could've beaten him today."

The Hall of Famer, coming off a third-place tie last week in the season-opening Master-Card Championship on the Big Island, has won eight official events in the islands dating to the PGA Tour's 1981 Hawaiian Open, earning nearly \$3.9 million. "I can't tell you how lucky I am with a third last week and a first this week because I didn't do anything for six weeks," he said. His time away from golf never showed.

Irwin took away any suspense early, carding five birdies on the front nine to make the turn at 31 and take a commanding six-stroke lead, leaving the rest of the field fighting for second place. "Two of the three days, I got off to a very quick start," Irwin said. "It sets the tempo for

quick start, Irwin said. It sees the tempo for the rest of the day and you feel like you don't have to peddle quite so hard to keep up with the pack because you're ahead of the pack. "Then it's a matter of trying to keep your

focus and not get yourself into situations where you blindside yourself."

Quigley, the MasterCard winner, shot a 69

and took home \$132,000 to push his two-week winnings to \$404,000. "Finishing 1-2 in the first two weeks is beyond what I expected," he said.

Irwin, who began his streak with a victory at Kaanapali in 2000, played nearly flawless in the 54-hole event. He began the day with a two-stroke lead over Allen Doyle and shared the lead with three others after the opening

Irwin continued his torrid run on the back side by holing a long birdie putt on the 416-yard 10th to reach 17 under. The putt curled left to right and paused at the edge of the cup for a split second and dropped in.

The gallery cheered wildly as Irwin exhaled deeply and raised his right arm.

Kildow bruised after DH crash

Two women hurt in training runs; Miller third in men's first session

BY ERICA BULMAN

SANTA CATERINA VALFUR-VA, Italy — American ski star Lindsey Kildow escaped serious injury Monday when she crashed into several photographers during downhill training in the Al-

pine World Ski Championships.
Kildow bruised her back and
wrist but planned to take part in
training runs Tuesday and
Wednesday in advance of Sunday's downhill.

"Tm lucky," Kildow said. "Tm not badly injured. I just banged myself up a little bit. I've got a nice bruise on my back. I broke my pole and it hurts on my hand right where the grip goes. But I'll be going at 'em tomorrow'."

be going at em tomorrow."

Two other skiers were injured during the first women's training session. Germany's Isabelle Huber tore a ligament in her right knee, ending her season and Russia's Alena Kasakova injured her left knee and was taken to a hospital for tests.

This has been a rough week for Kildow, who was a favorite for Sunday's super giant slalom but finished ninth after making several mistakes.

On Monday, she crashed after coming off a roll going into the steeps, rotating in the air and landing backward. She fell spread eagle on her back, then spun on the ground several times as she sped down the course and plowed into the photographers.

"It was kind of scary," Kildow said. "I guess I ran into some people but I don't remember that." Austria's Michaela Dorfmeis-

Austria's Michaela Dorfmeister was fastest in training in 1 minute, 42.41 seconds, followed by Germany's Hilde Gerg (1:43.31) and Italy's Isolde Kostner (1:43.42). The top American was Caroline Lalive, sixth in 1:43.95.

The three injured women were hurt on one of the most challeng-ing sections of the course named for former Italian Olympic Deborah Compagnoni. Skiers turn left before jumping and changing direction in the air to make the next corner unon landing.

corner upon landing.
"Personally, I think that jump should be smoothed," Kostner, Italy's top downhiller for a decade, said. "I didn't have the feeling I was hoping for and I'm a little nervous about it right now."

Meanwhile, across the valley at Bormio, Olympic downhill champion Fritz Strobl was fastest in the men's opening session of downhill training, only the first step in the cutthroat competition among the powerful Austrians for a spot in the championships' premier race on Saturday.

Teams in world championship and Olympic competition are limited to four starters, which usually means Austria must leave off racers who rank among the world's best.

In this case, a victim could be four-time World Cup overall and multi Olympic champion Hermann Maier. He, Strobl, Werner Franz and Christoph Gruber are contending for three spots, with times in training sessions Tuesday to be a determining factor.

day to be a determining factor.
"It's not easy," Maier said. "It's like we are racing twice. We race in training to earn a spot, then compete again on the race day. You have to give everything you have twice. It takes a lot out of



American Lindsey Kildow loses her balance prior to crashing during Monday's training session for the women's downhill in the Alpine World Ski Championships at Santa Caterina Valtruva, Italy. Kildow, considered a medal Avorite for new keekeng's race. was battered and had back bruise but was otherwise unburt.

Johann Grugger, who has won two World Cup downhills this season, has already clinched one of Austria's spots, and Michael Wal-

chhofer has an automatic fifth berth as defending champion. Maier, unhappy when he was told he needed to qualify, appeared to have resigned himself

"I guess it's normal with my results this season," said Maier, whose best performance in down-

hill this season was a fourth place in the classic Lauberhorn at Wengen, Switzerland. "Besides, I've had to deal with qualifying in the past. In 1995, I had to qualify for my career, to get into the Austrian team. Without qualifying, I would never have become a cham-

pion. Anyway, I think the coaches know I am a favorite for gold." Strobl was clocked in 1 minute, 57.69 seconds, 0.70 faster than Switzerland's Bruno Kernen. with World Cup overall leader Bode Miller of Franconia, N.H., third in 1:58.65.

"It's only the first training run so it's difficult to tell how everyone is really skiing," said Miller, who won the men's super-G gold last Saturday. "Everyone is just trying to get familiar with the course."

Maier was sixth, 1.01 back; Gruber was 12th, 1.60 behind; and Franz was 14th, 2.04 back.

The Assessment Duran

NEW YORK — Denny Neagle's grievance against the Colorado Rockies to overturn the team's termination of his contract will be heard on April 14-15 by baseball arbitrator Shvam Das.

Colorado terminated the pitcher's contract on Dec. 6, three days after he was issued a citation for solicitation. Neagle pleaded innocent last week to the charge, which stems from an allegation that he offered a woman \$40 for sex.

Neagle, who has not pitched in a game since July 2003 became of injuries, agreed in December 2000 to a SSI million, five-year contract that called for him to be paid \$10 million this year. In addition, the deal contains a \$1.25 million team option for 2006 with a

Sports briefs

\$9 million buyout, meaning he would be owed \$19 million by the Rockies if Das rules in his favor.

In terminating Neagle's deal, Colorado cited the provision in the uniform player contract that states the team can end the agreement if the player shall "fail, refuse or neglect to conform his personal conduct to the standards of good citizenship and good sportsmanship."

The Major League Baseball Players Association filed a grievance against the termination on Dec. 14.

Neagle, 36, has a 124-92 career record with a 4.24 ERA over 11 seasons, going 19-23 with a 5.57

ERA for the Rockies. The left-hander has had elbow ligament and shoulder operations since he last pitched.

Neagle grievance vs. Rockies scheduled for April

Athens, Berlin, Moscow apply for swim worlds

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Swimming's international governing body expects to know by Feb. 15 if the world championships will be held in Athens, Berlin or Moscow.

FINA confirmed Monday that the three cities have officially applied to stage the July 17-31 meet, which was moved from Montreal because of budget problems.

Coley Wallace, boxer and actor, dead at 77

NEW YORK — Coley Wallace, who knocked out Rocky Marciano in an amateur bout and portrayed Joe Louis in two movies, has died. He was 77.

Wallace died in a Manhattan hospital Sunday of heart failure, his lawyer and friend, Raymond Sussman, said Sunday.

Wallace had a record of 20-7 in six years as a professional, but in most memorable moment came as an amateur in 1948, when he defeated Marciano in the New York Golden Gloves tournament. It is believed that the defeat was the only loss ever for Marciano,

who went on to win the heavy-

weight championship and was unbeaten in 49 fights.

Wallace is best known for twice portraying Joe Louis on film, once in "The Joe Louis Story" in 1933 and again in Martin Scorsese's "Raging Bull" in 1980.

Jockey critically injured in fall at Gulfstream

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla.

— Jockey Gary Boulanger was hospitalized in critical condition Monday after a fall during the Mac Diarmida Handicap at Gulf-stream Park.

Boulanger's mount fell on the final turn and the jockey was sent to the ground when his horse was bumped by another horse.

Boulanger received head lacerations and was taken to Hollywood Memorial Hospital, where he was in critical condition in the intensive care unit, a nursing supervisor said.

Boulanger, 37, a native of Edmonton, Alberta, has been a fixture in South Florida horse racing for about a decade. He headed the list of Calder Race Course's top jockeys in 1994 and 1995, and finished in the ton 10 last year.

Favorites win for a reason

BY IRA MILLER

San Francisco Chronicle

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — For

JACKSONVILLE, FIB. — FOR more than three decades, the New York Jets' epic victory over the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III has been recalled as one of the historic upsets in sports.

of the historic upsets in sports. Yet the fact is that, for all the words that will have been spilled about either team's chances by the time the Patriots and Eagles play Sunday in Super Bowl XXXIX, true upsets have been rare in the NFL's title game. Fifteen of the last 20 favorites

rare in the NFL's title game. Fifteen of the last 20 favorites have won the championship, by an average of nearly 20 points a game. And some of the games that were betting upsets at the time have been shown, with hind-sight, to be anything but surprising, like the Patriots' victory over

the Rams three years ago.
Further, many of the closest games have occurred in those rare years when, because of scheduling considerations, the Super Bowl was played only one week after the conference championship games.

This year's game is back on the two-week schedule, plenty of time for the Eagles to hear and reached are peatedly that they have no chance, a factor that "is self-fulfilling in many ways," former 49ers quarterback Steve Young, the Super Bowl MVP 10 years ago, said Sunday.

There is a relatively simple explanation why favorites do so well in this game

Football is a game of emotion, focus and preparation. Upsets are most likely to happen when one or more of those factors is missing from a team. But in a championship game, particularly with an extra week to prepare, the better team is most unlikely to be unemotional, unfocused or unpre-

pared.
"I always say that in football,
with seven days between games,
half of the battle is won or lost by
the time you warm up," Young
said, "Teams hear," We can't beat
these supys. By the time you get do,
it's been worn out so much,
you're almost [done] emotionally.
The nation, the world, feels like
we don't have a chance.' There's
something to that."

Three of the 49ers' five Super Bowl victories came by margins of more than 20 points. Dallas won back-to-back Super Bowles have the such as the 10 points. Dallas in the '90s by a total of \$2 points. History tells us such lopsided endings to an NFL season are not brand new, \$5 years ago, Cleveland beat Detroit \$6-10 in the NFL title game. In fact, in one four-year stretch during the '50s, the victory margin averaged appoints in NFL championship games.

Young, here for his work with ESPN, believes the Patriots, whose two Super Bowl victories in the last three years were decided on end-of-game field goals by Adam Vinatieri, are looking at this one as a "statement" game to win big.

"I think they want to make a statement here, like 'We're a dynasty,' Young said. "I think they're going to unload everything to try to make a statement." Both teams were making statements as they arrived Sunday, however.

Wide receiver Freddie Mitchell, who is Terrell Owens' replacement, criticized the Patriots' secondary last week.

Defrains Mitchell's comments, in which he also criticized Jack-sonville as a poor venue in which to play the game, will take some of the focus off Owens, who has said he will play in the game although his doctor still has not cleared him following surgery in December.

All this talk is one of the problems with the extra "dead" week before the Super Bowl — too much blather, too little football.

New England is favored to win by about a touchdown. The Patriots are thought to have an edge because of their recent history of championship-level play, because they had a better record than the

Eagles while playing in a tougher conference, and because Philadelphia has been weakened by the injury to Owens.

The last Super Bowl upset was Tampa Bay's 48-21 victory over the Raiders two years ago, a game in which Oakland was favored by four points. But the Bucs, because of coach Jon Gruden, had much more familiarity with the Raiders than the Raiders had with them, and the absence of a two-week break worked in Tampa Bay's favor, so it might not have been that much

of an upset.
Prior to that, the most recent
underdogs who won the Super
Bowl were the Patriots against
the Rams following the 2001 season, Denver over Green Bay following the 1997 season, the Giants over Buffalo following the
1990 season, and the Redskins
over Denver following the 1987
season

WR Owens takes part in one-third of practice

BY ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Terrell Owens practiced Monday for the first time since injuring his ankle last month, moving closer toward possibly returning for the Super Bowl.

The Philadelphia Eagles'.
All-Pro receiver took part in less than one-third of the team's 30 plays. Just last week, Dr. Mart Myerson, the surgeon who operated on Owens' right ankle in December, said he would not clear him to suit up against the New England Patriots on Sunday.

"We limited what he did and he did it well and he did it with the team," Eagles coach Andy Reid. "He moved around pretty well. We'll see how he continues, see how he feels tomorrow and the rest of the week."

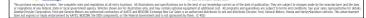
In his first season with the Eagles after eight years in San Francisco, Owens led Philadelphia with 77 catches for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs.

Myerson inserted two screws in Owens' and lead a plate or the outside of the ankle three days after he was injured against plates on Dec. 19. Owens was told after surgery that he had only darfer surgery that he had only did not still be surgery of the Super Bowl, which was 6½ weeks away at the time. But he re-habbed vigorously, hoping to help Philadelphia win its first NFL championship since 1960.

The final decision on Owens' status will come down to the player, Reid and the team's medical staff.

"Could the same injury occur? Yes," Reid said. "But he won't damage it any further than he already has."





Eagles hope to buck trend of Philly teams losing the big one

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA - The City of Brotherly Love is a city of los ers in the sports world.

None of Philadelphia's four major professional teams have won a championship since the 76ers captured the NBA title in 1983, and they've won only nine titles in more than 120 years. They've come close several times, only to disappoint their long-suffering fans who are accustomed to agonizing losses and heartbreaking finishes.

The Eagles are hoping to end the 22-year title drought by defeating the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl next Sunday A win would spark a frenzied celebration in this championship-starved city. More than a million fans would be expected to turn out for a victory parade on Broad Street that would be held

"When I came to Philly in 1977, all I ever heard about was the parade the Flyers got when they won the Stanley Cup," said Ron Jaworski, quarterback of the 1980 Eagles, the only other time Philadelphia reached the Super Bowl, "I can't even imagine what it would be like if they won the Super Bowl.

Jaworski, now an NFL television analyst, was on the field for the final seconds of the Eagles victory over Atlanta in the NFC championship game last Sunday. He understood the magnitude of the win, especially since the Eagles had lost the last three conference title games, including two losses at home.

"This is the most passionate football community in the coun-try," Jaworski said. "They've sup-ported their team through good years and bad. They endured the three devastating championship losses. It seems all those memories were erased on Sunday. The outcome of the game affected the mood of the entire city and I can you people are walking around town with a swagger like vou've never seen before

They won't be strutting around if the Eagles lose to the Patriots Though some fans are satisfied their team overcame adversity a severe ankle injury to All-Pro receiver Terrell Owens — to reach the Super Bowl, just getting there won't cut it for many of the devoted lovalists.

"Nobody cares if you lose. They only remember if you win the big game," said season ticketholder Joe Parisi.

In Philly, it's easy to remember the championship teams because so few have won it all. It's even easier to recall all the failures.

The Eagles have won three NFL championships in 72 years, but none since 1960. The 76ers have won three titles in 56 years The Flyers have won two Stanley Cups in 37 years, but none since The Phillies have won just one

World Series (1980) since their in-

ception in 1883, and have lost more games than any team in sports

Fans in Boston and Chicago can sympathize. The Red Sox went 86 years without winning a World Series until last October. The Cubs haven't won a World Series since 1908 and the White Sox last won it in 1917

But, the Patriots won two Super Rowls in the last three years and the Celtics won numerous NBA championships over those years, giving Boston fans plenty of reasons to celebrate.

And, Chicago fans have cele brated the Bears winning the Super Bowl and six NBA titles for Michael Jordan and the Bulls in the last two decades

So, Philly just might be the most tortured city in sports.

"A whole generation has grown up without experiencing the feeling of winning a championship, said die-hard fan Mike Sarinceno "We've been teased and disanpointed so many times.

We're due." The 76ers were the most recent team to fall short in a title quest when an overachieving squad led by MVP Allen Iverson lost 4-1 to aquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2001 NBA Finals.

The Flyers were swept by Detroit in the 1997 Stanley Cup finals, their fifth straight defeat in the finals and the only time they played for a championship during star Eric Lindros' tenure in Philadelphia. The Phillies were two wins away from winning the World Series in 1993, before Toronto's Joe Carter hit a dramatic homer in Game 6 to clinch it for the Blue Jays. The Eagles, coached by Dick Vermeil, were dominated by Oakland, 27-10, in their first trip to the Super Bowl

24 years ago. The Eagles have caused fans more grief than any of the teams in recent years, beginning in the mid 1980s when Buddy Ryan came in and proclaimed, "You got a winner in town."

Ryan backed up his bravado, rebuilding a losing organization and rejuvenating a fan base that lost interest following a string of six straight losing seasons from

But Ryan's teams, led by quarterback Randall Cunningham and defensive end Reggie White. were 0-3 in the playoffs, the first loss coming in the infamous Fog Bowl at Chicago on Dec. 31, 1988.

Rich Kotite and Ray Rhodes followed Ryan and both had moderate success, each winning one playoff game. But eventually the Eagles hit rock bottom and were considered the laughingstock of the league when Andy Reid was hired in 1999

Reid came in without any previous experience as a head coach, drafted Donovan McNabb in his first year and has taken the Eagles to the last four NFC championship games, finally winning

One game remains, though, and a city's hopes are riding on it.

Jacksonville seems ready 'to get the party started'

By RON WORD The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - After more than four years of planning. Jacksonville is ready for its time on the Super Bowl stage

Owners of temporary stores loading shelves for one-week sales season, security is getting tighter, and the football world's eyes are beginning to focus on the River City - which, despite its relative lack of status compared to some of the nation's popular tourist destinations, welcomes the challenge of hosting the NFL's title game.

The finishing touches for the transformation of Jacksonville's downtown are going on in earnest with workers planting flowers, naving streets and setting up temporary cell phone towers all with the hope of better accommodating the estimated 100,000 visitors who'll flood the city this week for the Super Bowl.

Palm trees have been planted and concrete sidewalks have been replaced by brick. Television lights and towers have been erected atop a parking garage. TV networks are beginning to set up their expansive camps and colorful fiberglass manatees spaced through the downtown area

And on Sunday afternoon, the real stars — the AFC champion New England Patriots and NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles arrived to begin their final preparations for the Feb. 6 game

Let the party begin. "I'm glad it's finally here but it's a big mystery dealing with all the unknowns," said Vince O'Rourke, who owns Eclate, a

downtown restaurant and lounge

Jacksonville has never before hosted a Super Bowl, and for many the process has been of the variety. learn-as-you-go

O'Rourke said the game is caus ing him big logistical problems as far as supplies and staffing - he simply doesn't know how much to order and how many people to

Betty Turner operates a jewelry store, and she, too, has concerns - like how diverted traffic will affect her sales. A street festival will go on outside her downtown storefront, and she's not sure how she'll get to work or where she — or her prospective customers - will park.

"I am praying very hard that the Super Bowl will give us the bump to keep going," Turner

Organizers insist that everyone involved can relax, and that everything leading up to next Sunday will go as planned.

It may be the first Super Bowl for the city and most of its 10,000 volunteers, but it's not the first for many of the key organizers — including Michael Kelly, who heads the Super Bowl Host Committee after serving in a similar capacity for Tampa's Super Bowl

Kelly knows the city wasn't a popular choice to host this game. vet he believes Jacksonville. which submitted its bid application back in 2000, will prove crit-

"There is a lot of anticipation. Kelly said. "We are ready to get the party started."

Added host committee spokeswoman Heather Surface:

well-oiled machine is an excellent way to describe it.

Plans seem to be moving along smoothly as the city prepares for the hordes of Eagles and Patriots fans, the arrival of five cruise shins that will serve as temporary floating hotels, plus corporate bigwigs and a virtual army of public relations folks pushing every-thing from the Sharpie ink pens to rapper Snoop Dogg.

Organizers say the game will result in a direct economic impact of \$300 million or more for Jacksonville, the nation's largest city in terms of mass (841 square miles) but one that doesn't even rank among the nation's top 50 television markets.

And there are plenty of people hoping to cash in. Among them: Former NFL tailback Ben Malone, who played for the Miami Dolphins from 1973-78. He'll operate a temporary storefront called "Major T's," which will be stacked with Super Bowl shirts. jackets (\$300), shot glasses (\$8) and other memorabilia.

Every year the Malone family, from Tempe, Ariz., heads for the Super Bowl to operate a similar shop

"We heard this was where there was going to be a big block party," said Malone's son, Ben.

Down the block, Mike Ranne, a building manager, was overseeing the completion of a coffee shop, which will be run by the Jacksonville chapter of National Association for the Mentally Ill of which he's the local president.

"The Super Bowl has been good for downtown." he said. People are doing what they've put off doing for years, even if they are doing it in one week.'

Words: Harrison, others dive into frav

WORDS, FROM BACK PAGE

Hey, Rodney, there's still six

days before you have to suit up. For the veteran Patriots to dive headfirst into such a fray is almost astonishing. Many of the Eagles recognize that. Even though this is the team's first trip to the Super Bowl in 24 years, they came across Sunday as the more experienced, resolute bunch.

"They were meaningless com-Donovan McNabb said "Freddie didn't mean anything by them. It's sad that neonle have to blow them up to make them into a

"Freddie apologized. If someone needs those comments to get up for a game like this, they don't need to be here. This is the Super Bowl, this is the ultimate.

The ultimate what? It was hard to tell Sunday.

Maybe Mitchell, who was un-

available to the media on Sunday, will take this oral spat a step further when he does speak.

Asked if he would directly address Mitchell. Harrison respond-



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2005 Super Bowl XXXIX, midnight Sunday. AFN-A; AFN-P

Game time is Central European

ed sarcastically: "What would I say? I don't have much to say. It's Freddie Mitchell."

Mitchell could be a key figure during the game itself, when ev-eryone hopefully will be paying attention to the actual play, not the wordy by-play. Even with its banged-up secondary, New England has shut down opponents. and if T.O. is MIA. Mitchell must produce to give Philadelphia a decent chance for its first NFL

crown since 1960.

The Eagles acquired Owens to get them over the hump of three straight NFC title game losses. While they scaled that mountain. they did so without the injured Owens, whose main role was as a cheerleader.

While team doctors have not cleared Owens to be on the field next Sunday, he's making every effort to play. Reid and his staff have been close-mouthed - isn't that refreshing? — about Owens potential availability.

New England has its own health issues, with both starting cornerbacks out, as they have been for months, and All-Pro DT Richard Seymour's status uncertain with a knee injury.

But the Patriots have treated those absences as a non-issue at least until Mitchell insulted

"We have a pieced-together secondary," said Troy Brown, the receiver-kick returner turned cornerback. "It's patchwork, but so what? It's a team sport. It doesn't matter if you know our name or not"

Cowboys' guard tandem puts on a show in debut

BOULDER, Colo. - John Lucas and JamesOn Curry had a successful debut as Oklahona State's starting backcourt.

Lucas, the veteran who led the Cowbovs to

the Final Four last season, and star freshman Curry started together for the first time this season and paced Oklahoma State to a 104-86 victory, its first at Colorado in almost nine

It was the ninth-ranked Cowboys' highest output since getting 108 against Oklahoma in

"When your starting guards have 48 points, 12 assists and only one turnover, you're not



going to lose very many games." Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said. Lucas had 26 points and

Curry, starting in place of Daniel Bobik, had 17 of his season-high 22 in the second half. "I had six steals and no turnovers, that's all

that matters." Curry said.

The last time Oklahoma State (15-3, 5-2 Big 12) won in Boulder was Feb. 24, 1996.

Curry was 6-for-8 from three-point range and provided some strong defense in the second half on Colorado freshman Richard Roby. Roby had 12 points on 4-for-4 shooting on threes in the first half. He finished with 14 points

"They eliminated my touches in the second half," Roby said. "I thought they had two or three different guvs guarding me in the first half. They went to one guy in the second half." Andy Osborn and Chris Copeland each

scored 19 points to lead the Buffaloes (10-8. 2-5), who were outrebounded 36-23. The Cow boys were 13-for-21 on three-pointers, while Colorado was a school-record 17-for-29. "It turned into a gunning game and we got

outgunned." Roby said. "They shot 60 percent and you won't beat anybody allowing 60 percent shooting.

No. 10 Washington 79, Arizona St. 70: At Tempe, Ariz., Nate Robinson scored 18 of his 23 points in the second half and the visiting Huskies (17-3, 7-2) moved back into a tie with Arizona for first place in the Pac-10

Ike Diogu had 14 points and 13 rebounds for Arizona State (15-6, 4-5), which committed 21 turnovers

Robinson, bouncing back from a sub-par game last Thursday in a 92-83 loss at Arizona,

was 8-for-12 from the field, including 6-for-8 in the second half, and was 2-of-4 on three-pointers.

Tre Simmons scored 15 points and Brandon Roy had 12 for Washington. Jamaal Williams added 11 points, six during a decisive 11-0 second-half run

No. 14 Alabama 75, Georgia 47: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Kennedy Winston scored 18 points and the Crimson Tide (17-3, 6-1 Southeastern Conference) held Georgia to 31 percent shoot-

Georgia went more than 8 minutes in the second half without scoring and Alabama outscored the Bulldogs 21-2 in the first 10 minutes after halftime

The game was originally scheduled for Saturday night, but the Bulldogs were delayed getting to Tuscaloosa because of icy weather

Younes Idrissi had 14 points for Georgia

Notre Dame 78, No. 19 Connecticut 74: At South Bend, Ind., Torin Francis scored 19 points and the Fighting Irish (13-5, 5-3 Big East) dominated inside

Denham Brown led the Huskies (12-5, 4-3) with 20 points, while Marcus Williams had 10 points and tied the school record with 16 as

Connecticut missed its final five shots, including a breakaway layup by Williams that would have tied the game at 76 with 15 seconds left

Josh Boone, Connecticut's leading scorer at 14.8 points a game, was limited to six on 3-for-6 shooting, and Charlie Villanueva, who averages 12.6 points, had six points on 2-for-8 shooting

Maryland 79, No. 22 Georgia Tech 71: Nik Caner-Medley scored 19 points and Chris McCray had 16 for the Terrapins (13-5, 4-3 At-Coast Conference), who followed Wednesday's 75-66 upset of Duke with another victory over a ranked team.

Isma'il Muhammad had 15 points for the Yellow Jackets (12-6, 3-4), who lost for the fourth time in five games and fell to 0-3 on the road in the ACC

John Gilchrist scored 15 points, Ekene Ibekwe had 14 and Travis Garrison grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds for the Terrapins, who have won 10 of their last 11 home games against Georgia Tech.



Maryland's John Gilchrist, right, blocks a shot attempt by Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack during the second half of Sunday's game at College Park, Md. Maryland beat Georgia Tech 79-71.

Navy pulls a surprise; Army falls

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Greg Sprink scored 17 points as Navy surprised Patriot League leader Bucknell 66-62 on Sunday.

Bucknell (14-6 overall, 5-2 Patriot) which earlier this season unset nation-

Service Academies

ranked Pittsburgh, couldn't overcome Navy's late-game

free-throw accuracy. The Midshipmen (6-14, 2-5) made 10 of their final 11 free throws. Two free throws by Corey

Johnson gave Navy the lead for good at 63-62, and George O'Garro added two with 18 seconds remaining to push the margin to three points.

After Kevin Bettencourt missed a three-pointer for Buck-nell, Sprink grabbed the rebound and was fouled. His free throw with 7.4 seconds to play completed the scoring.

Lafayette 66, Army 49: At Easton, Pa., Sean Knitter and Jamaal Douglas each scored 14 points to lead Lafavette over Army. Matt Betley contributed 12

points for Lafayette (6-14, 2-5 Pa triot League), which held a 30-20 halftime edge. Cory Sinning scored 16 points

and Matt Bell added 10 points for Army (3-16, 1-6), which was outrehounded 47-28

Army pulled to 33-29 with 15:31 left and trailed only 36-30 with 14 minutes remaining when Knitter scored on four straight possessions, and Pat Betlev added a three-pointer that gave the Leopards a 47-35 advantage with 8:26 remaining.

Despite shooting only 36 per-cent for the game, Lafayette led throughout and finished the first half on a 10-3 run. The Leopards were also 16-for-19 from the free throw line. Army shot 36 percent

Redick's misses big news as Duke routs Hokies

BY KEITH PARSONS

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Jeff King stood outside Virginia Tech's locker mom and tried to make sense of the pounding he and his teammates received at Duke.

The Hokies forward, who's also a tight end on the football team, had various bumps and bruises, and a cut over his right eye. He joked about being hit harder in this game than he had been all season while the Hokies won the Atlantic Coast Conference football title

"But we expected it," King said. "We came down here know ing it was going to be a dogfight We'll see them in a couple of weeks at home."

Shelden Williams had 21 noints and 11 rebounds by halftime and J.J. Redick scored 29 points de spite a shaky performance at the free-throw line, helping the second-ranked Blue Devils bury Virginia Tech 100-65 on Sunday night

Williams finished with 25 points and 17 rebounds for Duke (16-1, 6-1 ACC), which bounced back from a home loss earlier in the week to Maryland. Daniel Ewing added 17 points.

"We wanted to come out and make a statement," Williams said, "We knew they were going to be a scrappy team, so we want-ed to throw the first punch, so to

Virginia Tech (11-7, 4-3) fell to 0-8 at Cameron and played the final 4:39 without coach Seth Greenburg, who was issued his second technical foul and headed to the locker room

"I feel bad for my daughters and my wife, because, obviously, I embarrassed them and that's not something I want to happen, Greenburg said. "I did not use profanity - until I was tossed."

Zabian Dowdell had 15 points to lead the Hokies, who finished with 34 fouls, seven off the ACC record set in 1998 by Clemson against North Carolina. The Blue Devils shot 49 free throws in the first half — to Tech's 23.

"I guess we foul a lot." Greenburg said. "Our guys tried to play as hard as humanly possible, and we're just going to continue to work hard and try to establish a foundation for our program.

Perhaps tuning up for his matchup with Wake Forest's Eric Williams on Wednesday, the Duke center swished a turnaround jumper about 20 seconds into the game and had five oppor-tunities for three-point plays in the opening 20 minutes. He finished 9-for-13 from the field

"He's a monster under the bas Virginia Tech forward Deron Washington said. "He's too

With so many stoppages for free throws, even the Cameron Crazies appeared to get bored with the pace of play, chanting "Please stop fouling!" on several occasions. At one point, the Blue Devils shot free throws on four straight possessions.

"I think it was too physical Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "It shouldn't be that physical, but for both teams. I'm not blaming them. It was both sides.

Redick might have been affected too For the first time in his career, he missed more than one free throw in a game, hitting only seven of 10. He had missed only 20 of his previous 354. He's made 96 of 103 (93 percent) this season. "I had no idea what was going

on." Redick said. "I missed every one the same way. It was like I was dreaming

The Blue Devils held Virginia Tech without a basket for the final 5:35 of the first half and completed a 17-2 run on Redick's three-pointer just before the buzz-er to lead 56-31. The Hokies got within 16 early in the second half before Ewing and Redick combined to make four consecutive three-pointers, and the final 10 minutes was nothing more than garbage time.

"We're going to have to play this hard just to have an opportunity to win any game we play," Krzyzewski said. "We've always Krzyzewski said. known that. We're a good team just trying to get better

Competition down under bodes well for game

Talented field hints at rivalries tennis thrives on

BY PAUL ALEXANDER
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Marat Safin kept Russia's Grand Slam streak intact

Safin won the Australian Open in the first night final on Sunday, beating home favorite Lleyton Hewitt and continuing what three of his female compatriots started by winning the last three Grand Slam events of 2004.

After losing two of the last three finals at Melbourne Park, Safin defeated Hewitt 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, 4-4, but struggled through a subpar start. A Russian man or woman has won at each of the last four Grand Slam events, with Safin joining Maria Sharapova (Wimbledon), Anastasia Myskina (French Open) and Svetlana Kuznetsova (U.S. Open).

"The first set, you really couldn't call it tennis," the fourth-seeded Safin said. "I couldn't serve. I couldn't run. I didn't believe I could play that badly."

But by the end, Safin was back at the top of his game, an effort that embodied his comeback from injuries that dropped the former world No. 1 and 2000 U.S. Open champion to 86th just over a year ago.

"It's psychological — you start to have doubts, like really I could do this or not," said Safin, a player known for his racket-busting outbursts. "It's the third time, you get so nervous, so uptight.

"I don't want to lose it," he added. "Nobody cares about the (losing) finalist — so it was just a kind of a relief. "Safin made a single, jubilant fist pump after Hewitt hit a forehand out on match point, and said the victory wouldn't really sink in until he was back in his hotel room with the trophy.

Now Safin can look to the fu-



Russia's Marat Safin holds his Australian Open trophy in St Kilda, Australia. Monday. Safin defeated Australia's Llevton Hewitt in the final.

ture, knowing he has proven that his critics — those who questioned whether he would win another major — didn't know what they were talking about.

Just as important, he proved to himself, and the rest of the world, that top-ranked Roger Federer is beatable after ending his 26-match winning streak in the semifinals.

"Once you beat him, and then you beat Lleyton, you get so much confidence in yourself that you really can play great, you can win big titles and you can beat huge players in the finals and semifinals," Safin said.

It's the same feeling Serena Williams has after winning the women's title Saturday, silencing the people who said she and sister Venus were slipping.

In winning her seventh Grand Slam title, but first in 18 months, Williams put her distinctive stamp back on the women's game, defeating the fourth-, second- and top-seeded players in her last three matches.

Williams' three-set victory over Sharapova in the semifinals also avenged her loss in the Wimbledon final last year and set the stage for a new rivalry in women's tennis. Williams will rise to



Serena Williams, left, and compatriot Lindsay Davenport hug after their women's final match at the Australian Open on Saturday.

No. 2 in the new rankings and already has her sights set on the French Open — and the top spot.

Sharapowa's title was bracketed by Myskina's French Open title and Kuznetsowa's U.S. Open championship. With five winners in the last five Grand Slams, the variety at the top of the women's game bodes well for the future, especially after 2004 Australian Open winner Justine Henin-Hardenne and runner-up Kim Clijsters come back from in-

Hewitt, who put in months of preparation in his effort to become the first Australian man to win the Open since Mark Edmondson on the grass courts of Kooyong in 1976, was downcast after losing to Safin.

"I'm human and I'm disappointed — to come that close, train so
hard to put yourself in a position
— it's hard to take at the moment," said Hewitt, who will replace Andy Roddick at No. 2 in
the rankings.

Hewitt had reasons to feel good. Shortly after his loss, he proposed to his girlfriend, actress Rebecca Cartwright. A statement released by the couple

said he gave Cartwright an engagement ring within hours after the match.

Other Australians had pretty good tournaments, too.

Scott Draper and Samantha together for the first time, won the mixed doubles earlier Sunday, defeating Kevin Ullyett of Zimbabwe and Liezel Huber of South Africa 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (6). Stosur was scheduled to play with another player, who withdrew on the day before the tournament.

Draper, also a professional golfer, had to juggle sports over the past four days, playing in his first pro golf event Friday morning and winning his mixed doubles semifinal on Friday afternoon. He missed the cut in the Victoria Open. The last round finished Sunday — as the mixed doubles final was being played.

Australia's Alicia Molik, who lost to Lindsay Davenport in the singles semifinals with a questionable call playing a key role, teamed with Kuznetsova town the women's doubles by beating Davenport and Corina Morariu, back on the circuit after being diagnosed with leukemia 3½ years ago.

Weary Davenport seeking fifth Pan Pacific title

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Coming off a tough loss to Serena Williams at the Australian Open final on the weekend, Lindsay Davenport faces a tough task applying her weary body to this week's Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo.

"I'm not 100 percent right now," Davenport said Monday. "But I took yesterday off and hopefully I'll be in good shape for my first singles match on Thursday."

Davenport, who lost 6-2, 3-6, 0-6 to Williams in the Australian Open singles final Saturday, is the defending champion at the \$1.3 million Japanese event. The WTA's top-ranked player also won this tournament in 2003, 2001 and 1998.

"You've got to recover quickly," Daven-

port said of her loss to Williams. "It's always tough to lose in a Grand Slam final, but you've got to move forward."

If top-seeded Davenport can defend her title here, she'll become the tournament's most successful player. Martina Hingis has also won four times.

Davenport defeated Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva in last year's final. This year, she'll have to contend with World No. 4 Maria Sharapova of Russia, who always plays well in Japan.

Wimbledon champion Sharapova, who lost to Williams in the semifinals at Melbourne, won the Japan Open in October and is seeded second.

The Pan Pacific Open runs from Feb. 1-6 indoors at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. va, who lost to compatriot Sharapova in the Australian Open quarterfinals, is seeded third while fellow Russian Elena Dementieva is No. 4.

Fifth-seeded Ai Sugiyama, who is 21st in the WTA rankings, is among seven players who will represent the host nation.

who will represent the nost nation.

The only Japanese player to win in the
22-year history of the tournament is Kimiko Date, who won in 1995.

Davenport maintained her No. 1 ranking despite the Australian Open loss, while Williams jumped from seventh to second in the WTA rankings on Monday.

Williams, who beat three of the top four players at the Australian Open, is the first woman to move to No. 2 from outside the top five in a single tournament.

Amene Mauresmo dropped from No. 2 to No. 3 while Maria Sharapova remained No. 4. French Open champion Anastasia Myskina dropped from third to fifth. U.S. Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova, beaten by Sharapova in the quarterfinals, fell one place to No. 6.

Elena Dementieva is at No. 7, followed by Venus Williams, Jennifer Capriati and Alicia Molik. Four Russians are in the top 10: Sharapova, Myskina, Kuznetsova and Dementieva

Molik made the top 10 for the first time after beating Venus Williams in the fourth round and losing to Davenport in the quarterfinals. The biggest mover was Nathalie Dechy, who jumped from 25th to 13th by making the semifinals.

Trio sparks depleted Cavs

CLEVELAND - Time to stock up on the ice packs, aspirin and bandages. The Cavaliers are hurt-

Already missing star forward LeBron James, another starter and a ton reserve. Cleveland lost two more players to injury Sun-day night before Drew Gooden, Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Jeff McInnis sparked a 104-87 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks

Gooden scored a career-high 33 points - 27 in the second half - and Ilgauskas had 28 points and 18 rebounds as the hobbling Cavs survived another day with out James, who sat out his second straight game with a sprained ankle

"Everybody knew we had to step up with LeBron down," said McInnis, who matched a career high with 15 assists. "We only had like six guys available at the end. But Z, myself and Drew weren't going to let us lose this game."

Actually, the Cavs, who because of injuries dressed just nine players, were down to seven in the fourth quarter after Lucious Harris (bruised chest) and Sasha Pavlovic (right hip flexor) got hurt. In addition to James, Cleveland also was without starting forward Ira Newble (Achilles sprain) and super sub Anderson Varejao (ankle sprain).

On top of that, Cleveland rookie Luke Jackson is likely done for the year after undergoing back surgery and guard Dajuan Wagner has been in and out of the hospital with a stomach disorder.

"It's just that time of year where these things come about," Cavs coach Paul Silas said "Other guys have got to step up." Ilgauskas and Gooden took over in the second half, scoring 42



of Cleveland's 50 points - 28 of 32 in the fourth — and adding 16 rebounds after halftime as the Cavaliers improved to an Eastern Conference-best 16-4 at home and 1-1 since losing James.

James sprained his left ankle last week against Memphis and is still too sore to give it a try. Silas expects to have James' 25 points, seven rebounds and seven assists per outing back in Orlando

"We needed to win this game," said Harris, who had nine points in the first half. "We have to hold the fort down until LeBron gets

Michael Redd scored 23 points and Desmond Mason 17 for the Bucks, who were held to a sea son-low 10 points in the fourth quarter by the Cavs, who switched to a gimmicky triangle-and-two defense in the final period

"We have so many guys down, I had to come up with something, Silas said.

Lakers 101, Robcats 90: At Los Angeles, Caron Butler and Chucky Atkins each scored 20 points, Chris Mihm had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Los Angeles ended its first three-game losing streak of the season.

Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich missed the game because of a stomach virus. Assistant coach Frank Hamblen, the only holdover from former coach Phil Jackson's staff, guided the team. Hamblen's other experience as a head coach came in 1991-92 when he went 23-42 with Milwaukee when Del Harris was sidelined by stomach problems

The Lakers are 4-4 since Kobe Bryant sprained his right ankle Jan. 13 in a victory over Cleveland. Bryant joined his teammates on the bench for the first time since his injury because it was the first time he didn't need continuous therapy on the ankle.

Primoz Brezec had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the expansion Bobcats, who lost for the 17th time in 19 games and are 1-19 on the road, Rookie Emeka Okafor hurt his left ankle with 2:34 left and ended the game on the bench after scoring seven points and shooting 2-for-10.

Kareem Rush, whose 21 points Saturday night against Toronto helped the Bobcats end a season-worst 10-game losing streak. scored 13 against the Lakers. It was his first game against his former team since being traded to Charlotte on Dec. 6.

Heat 104. Rockets 95: With Dwyane Wade around, Miami can afford the occasional off-game from Shaquille O'Neal.

Wade had 30 points, eight rehounds and six assists leading a balanced attack that carried the

O'Neal only took 11 shots and finished with 15 points and five rebounds. Udonis Haslem hit his first seven shots from the floor and finished with 16 for Miami, as did Damon Jones. Eddie Jones added 11. Tracy McGrady had 28 points

for Houston, which lost for the first time in its last four road games. Yao Ming had 12 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter for the Rockets Kings 94, Timberwolves 84:

Brad Miller had 27 points, 15 rebounds and help picking up the slack for two injured Kings stars. The Sacramento backcourt,



Cleveland Cavaliers' Drew Gooden (90) shoots over Milwaukee Bucks' Dan Gadzuric, left, and Mike James (13) in the second quarter Sunday.

Cuttino Mobley (23 points) and Mike Bibby (21 points), combined for 34 points over the final two quarters following a slow first half. All-Star forwards Peia Stoiakovic (back spasms) and Chris Webber (sore left knee) didn't dress for the visiting Kings

Kevin Garnett had 21 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for Minnesota, which had its

five-game winning streak end. Suns 123. Raptors 105: At Toronto, Amare Stoudemire scored 19 of his 27 points in the third quarter and the Suns won their fifth straight.

Phoenix outscored Toronto 46-26 in the third quarter, the most points the Raptors have allowed in any quarter in their 10-year history.

Shawn Marion added 21 points and 17 rebounds for the Suns. who went 4-0 on their four-game road trip. Steve Nash had 19 points and 12 assists as all five Phoenix starters scored at least

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference							
Atlantic Division							
	w	1.	Pct	GB			
Boston	21	23	477				
Philadelphia	20	23	465	1/2			
New York	18	25	.419	21/2			
New Jersev		26		3			
Toronto		27		31/5			
Southeast			.400	3/1			
Miami	33		717				
			.717				
Washington	26			51/2			
Orlando	24	19	.558	71/2			
Charlotte	9	32					
Atlanta .	8	34	.190	23			
Central D							
Cleveland	26	17	.605	-			
Detroit	26	18	.591	1/2			
Chicago	22	20	.524	31/2			
Indiana	20	22	.476	51/5			
Milwaukee	15	27	357	10%			
minudacc	10			10/1			
Western Co	nfo	ror	100				
Western Contended							
Southwest Division							
	w	L	Pct	GB			
San Antonio	36	10	.783	_			
Dallas	28		.667	6			
Memphis	25	20	.556	101/2			

Milwaukee	15	27	.357	101/2				
Western Conference								
Southwest Division								
San Antonio Dallas Memphis Houston New Orleans	25 24 8	14 20 21 35	.533	GB - 6 10½ 11½ 26½				
Northwest I	Divis							
Seattle Minnesota Denver Portland Utah Phoenix Sacramento L.A. Lakers L.A. Clippers Golden State	15 /isio 36 30 23 21	25 30 n 10 13 19 23	.545 .432 .405 .333 .783 .698 .548 .477	7 12 13 16½ - 4½ 11 14 23				
Golden State Sunday's games Miami 104, Houston 95 Sacramento 94, Minnesota 84 Phoenix 123, Toronto 105 LA, Lakers 101, Charlotte 90 Monday's games Houston at Boston								

Indiana at Philadelphia

Orlando at Atlanta Memphis at New Orleans San Antonio at Seattle New York at L.A. Clippers New York at L.A. Clippers Detroit at Washington Cleveland at Orlando Cleveland at Orlando Phoenik at Memphis Minnesota at Milwaukee Miami at Dallas Charlotte at Utah New York at Denver Seattle at Sacramento Portland at L.A. Lakers

Houston at Indiana Houston at Philadelph Atlanta at Detroit Phoenix at Minnesota Dallas at New Orleans Denver at Portland

Sunday Heat 104, Rockets 95

HOUSTON — McGrady 10-26 6-728, Howard 8 0-0 10, Ming 8-14 6-6 22, Wesley 2-7 2-2 8, ara 7-13 6-6 21, Mutombo 1-2 0-0 2, Barry 0-5 0 0, Padgett 0-3 0-0 0, Strickland 1-2 0-0 2, eatherspoon 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 35-81 20-21

95. MIAMI — EJones 3-10 3-4 11, Haslem 7-9 2-2 16, O'Neal 6-11 3-5 15, D.Jones 7-14 0-0 16, Wade 8-18 14-16 30, Doleac 2-3 0-0 4, Ander-son 1-2 2-2 4, Dooling 1-5 0-0 2, Butler 2-2 0-0 6. Totals 37-74 24-29 104.

Kings 94, Timberwolves 84

Sacramento 20 19 31 62—5 17 22—84 Tirree-Point Goals—Sacramento 5-14 (Mob-19-36, House 1-1), Bibby 1-4, Barres 6-3), Min-19-36, House 1-1, Bibby 1-4, Barres 6-3), Min-19-36, House 1-1, Brouled Out-None. Rebounds—Sacramento 56 (Miller 15), Minnesota 55 (Garnett 13), Assists—Sacramento 25 (House 14), Minnesota 42 (Garnett 13), London 19-1, Minnesota 51, Minnesota 51

Lakers 101. Bobcats 90

CHARLOTTE — Wallace 4-13 1-2 10, Okafor 2-10 3-6 7, Brezec 7-13 1-3 15, Rush 5-16 0-0 13, Hart 4-7 0-0 8, Kapono 4-9 0-0 8, Kanjoht 4-8 0-0 8, Sampson 2-3 0-0 4, Ely 2-4 2-4, 6, Bogans 3-6 0-0 6, S.Smith 1-2 2-2 5. Totals 38-91 9-17

3 60 60 6.5 Smith 1.2 2.5 Trotals 389*15 2.4 LAKES p. mos 3 7.0 61, 050 m 61.5 2.13 Milm 51.4 cm. sep 3 7.0 61, 050 m 61.5 2.13 Milm 51.4 cm. sep 3 7.0 61, 050 m 61.5 2.13 Milm 51.4 cm. sep 3 7.0 61, 050 m 61.5 2.13 Milm 51.4 cm. sep 3 7.0 61.5 Milm 51.4 cm. sep 3 7.0 61.5 Milm 51.4 cm. sep 3 7.5 m 61.5 Milm 51.4 sep 3 7.5 m 61.5 m 61.

Suns 123, Raptors 105

PHOENIX — Q.Richardson 6-13 3-3 17, Marion 8-16 4-4 21, Stoudemire 11-15 5-7 27, Johnson 8-13 5-7 24, Nash 7-12 4-4 19, Jackson 3-9 0-0 8, Hunter 1-3 2-4 4, Parker 1-2 0-0 3, Shirley 0-1 0-0 0, Voskuhl 0-1 0-0 0, Outlaw 0-10-0 0. Totals 45-86 2-329 123.

0-10-0.0 Totals 45-86 23-29 123.

TORONTO - Rose 6-14 8-8 21, Bosh 8-18
10-12 27, Araujo 0-2-0-0, Peterson 9-20-1-1
24, Palacio 3-86 0-6, Marshall 1-40-0-2, Bonner 6-11 3-4 15, Aa.Williams 0-1-0-0, E.Williams 0-2-0-0, Murray 2-6-0-2, 4 Woods 3-4
0-0-6. Totals 38-90 22-27 105.

The control of the control o

Cavaliers 104, Bucks 87

MILWAUKEE — Mason 7-16 3-4 17, Smith 4-11 1-4 9, Gadzuric 2-4 0-2 4, Mullams 7-8 2-2 16, Redd 8-18 7-7 23, Pachullal 2-9 4-5 8, M.James 47-0-8, Strickland 0-2-0-0, Kukoc 0-12-2 2, Totals 34-76 19-267 0-5, COLEVELAND — Pavlovic 2-7 0-0 5, Gooden 10-19 13-13 33, Ilguarskas 9-20 10-11 28, Snow 4-6 2-19, Michmils 6-21 2-2 16, Traylor 2-6 0-0 0-27 104-00-0, Totals 37-86

Leaders Through January 30 SCORING AVERAGE G FG FT PTS AVG I. 38 372 316 1105 29.1 34 285 298 934 27.5

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ME G AST AVG 43 475 11.0 30 276 9.2 43 358 8.3 41 310 7.6 42 316 7.5 38 283 7.4 44 311 7.1 42 295 7.0 43 299 7.0 Nash, Phoe. Knight, Char. Marbury, N.Y. James, Clev. Wade, Mia. Iverson, Phil. Alston, Tor. Hinrich, Chi. Francis, Orl. 283 311 295 299 242 224 265 263

Hawks endure different traveling violation

By CHARLES ODUM

The Associated Press ATLANTA - The Atlanta Hawks have the worst record in the Eastern Conference. They might also have the worst travel luck in the NBA after a third straight weekend of flight delays.

"It's just weird. We've never been through a stretch like that," team spokesman Arthur Triche said after the Hawks arrived in Atlanta on Sunday afternoon following Saturday night's 84-83 loss in Memphis

The team's worst weekend of travel problems began Friday night when the Hawks tried to beat the bad weather by flying out of Atlanta following their 106-96 loss to the Miami Heat.

Instead, freezing rain and sleet already were causing problems, and players and staff spent seven hours sitting on the team's chartered jet, watching through the night as repeated de-icing procedures didn't get the plane off the ground

Hawks guard Tony Delk said he listened to music on the plane until the batteries ran down on his personal music system. He said he then played games on his telephone until that battery gave out.

Delk, an eight-year veteran, said there were many times when he wondered if the game was worth the long wait.

"You have to be men-tally tough," Delk said. "I'm not going to say anybody has been through this. This was my first

time since I've been playing. It's our job, so you have to treat it as a professional and go out there and

Finally, about 6 a.m. Saturday, the team gave up on its flight and players tried to nap at a downtown Atlanta hotel for a few

44 We've bonded probably more

than any other team in the league could have for this year. Thankfully, no one has gotten on anyone's

nerves.

Arthur Triche Hawks spokesman

they would be playing Saturday night in Mem-

At mid-afternoon Saturday, the Hawks headed back to the airport. having lined up a differ-ent charter for the charter one-hour flight. After waiting through another tedious de-icing, the Hawks finally took off.

The charter landed in Memphis about an hour before the scheduled start, and the team was given a police escort to the arena. The NBA delayed tipoff an hour, to 9

p.m. EST, to give the Hawks more practice time. In what Hawks coach Mike Woodson

called "an unbelievable effort," the Hawks lost by one point in a game that ended about 11:30 p.m.

The travel complications, however, were not over. The team couldn't find lodging in Memphis and had to settle for a hotel about 30 minutes out of town. Then the players found the hotel dining room was closed, so the search for a late dinner ended at a nearby pancake restaurant.

The Hawks' return flight to a foggy Atlanta landed about 12:30 p.m., according to Triche, who said players were given a day off before a practice Monday morning for a home game that night against Orlando.

It marked the third straight week Atlanta has encountered travel problems. The Hawks were stuck en route to Boston for a Jan 14 game with the Celtics because of fog, and in Chicago after a Jan. 21 game when the flight crew did not have enough

"We've bonded probably more than any other team in the league could have for this year," Triche said. "Thankfully, no one has gotten on anyone's nerves."

AP Sports Writer Paul Newberry in Atlanta contrib-



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Brown says he's staving in Detroit

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. Larry Brown wants to remain with the Detroit Pistons through



the end of his coaching ca-reer, the De-Free troit Press reported Monday Speculation

that Brown was thinking about leaving the Pistons at the end of the season and taking over the New York Knicks began Friday, when he was quoted in a New York newspaper as saying that the Knicks' job was one he had "dreamed about many times."

But Brown said there was more to it than that.

'I told him what I'm telling Brown told the Free Press "Did I say it was my dream job? Yes, I told him it once was. But they passed me over twice. I grew un in New York, I talked to the guy about that. I talked to him about Red Holzman. never been smart enough to say 'no comment.'

The Hall of Fame coach, who has three-plus years left on his \$25 million, five-year contract, told the Free Press that coaching the Knicks is not in his future.

'Even if they offer me the job at the end of this season, I am not

going to go coach the Knicks, Brown said. Raptors suspend Alston

TORONTO - The Toronto Raptors suspended point guard Rafer Alston for two games on Sunday for his conduct at practice a day hefore.

Alston won't be paid and will not be allowed to practice until Thursday. Toronto coach Sam Mitchell wouldn't say what Alston did but said he needs to rein in his emotions.

Alston missed Sunday's game gainst Phoenix and will miss Wednesday's game at Indiana.

SPORTS



Gooden eases Cavs' pain with career-high 33 to lead win. Page 34

Starting a week of words



Patriots safety Rodney Harrison said Fred die Mitchell's comments "were clearly a mistake. No one in this league would attack somehody a week before the Super Rowl."

Pats' Harrison responds to Mitchell

BY BARRY WILNER The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Roll out the steel cage. Or maybe just invite Rodney Harrison and Freddie Mitchell to the

"Jerry Springer Show." The WWE-style rank-out feud between the New England safety and Philadelphia receiver has gotten pretty juicy. It's even overshadowing the Terrell Owens

will-he-or-won't-he saga Anyone who thought the Patriots are too well-versed in this Super Bowl stuff and far too classy to get involved in a war of words with the Eagles a full week before the big game might need to think again.

The Patriots are angry about comments last week from Mitchell

The defending champions made it clear Sunday when they arrived in Jacksonville that they aren't about to ignore Mitchell dissing their secondary, particularly Harri-

"When he says something like that," linebacker-lineman Willie McGinest said of Mitchell, "he's disrespecting our whole defense. Not only Rodney, but me and Tedy Bruschi and Mike Vrabel and all the rest of

That Mitchell has been an underachieving backup for Terrell Owens hasn't escaped New England's notice. Owens, side-

lined since Game 14 with torn ankle liga-ments, probably deserves the spotlight as he attempts to get healthy enough to play Sunday. He still hasn't practiced, but has been running and no longer has a limp.

Considering how the Patriots might be gunning for Mitchell in the game, maybe the Eagles need Owens more than ever

But even if the All-Pro receiver returns coach Andy Reid said he will be evaluated daily - he isn't likely to be a focal point of Philadelphia's offense. And he probably won't get nearly the attention from the Patriots during their media sessions as Mitchell will receive

Or already has received.

'Maybe he was drinking before he started talking." Harrison said. "because that was clearly a mistake. No one in this league would attack somebody a week before the Super Bowl.

"I'm not really surprised because you're always going to find one jerk out of the bunch, just like [Mike] Vanderjagt," added Harrison, who also verbally feuded with the Indianapolis kicker during the playoffs. "You're always going to find one guy like that who wants some attention and wants to do something to try and stir up the emotions of the game

"I don't need any extra motivation: I need something to calm me down."

SEE WORDS ON PAGE 31





Leonard ends dry spell by rallying to win Hope Page 28



Irwin takes Turtle Bay for record fifth straight Page 28

Thou shalt not dunk on Duke



Duke's Shelden Williams rejects Virginia Tech's Deron Washington during the Blue Devils' 100-65 win. Top 25 coverage, Page 32.

